INSTRUCTIVE RAMBLES

EXTENDED.

VOL. I.

R.K. Porter del.t J. Mitan sculp.t

My friend I commit to your care the safety of your king's Son.

INSTRUCTIVE RAMBLES

EXTENDED

IN

LONDON,

AND

THE ADJACENT VILLAGES.

DESIGNED TO AMUSE THE MIND AND IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH.

BY ELIZABETH HELME.

"Knowledge is certainly one of the means of pleasure, "as is confessed by the natural desire which every "mind feels of increasing its ideas."

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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TO inculcate morality and a love of ſtudy, and, by awakening curioſity, inſenſibly to lead youthful readers to a peruſal of works calculated to improve their minds, and render them at a more advanced age informed companions, was the deſign of the firſt part of this work. The approbation that it has been favoured with, has influenced the Author to extend her plan. The hiſtorical events are carefully ſelected; and the fictitious

ones such as, she flatters herself, while they keep alive the youthful attention, may tend to inspire a love of virtue.

The sprightliness of children requires a lightness in their studies, which ceases to be necessary as the mind acquires strength and comprehensive knowledge: could the Author, therefore, under the guise of entertainment, convey morality or information, neither her rambles among the *real* objects of curiosity in the metropolis and the adjacent villages, nor her excursions in the regions of fiction, will prove wholly useless.

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EXTENDED.

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A Birth-Day Preſent—Finſbury a Garden or Vineyard in the Time of King Richard II.—Shoreditch named after a rich Knight—The Uncertainty of Grandeur procured by vicious Purſuits—Spitalfields originally called Loleſworth—Antiquities diſcovered there—Antiquities found at Radcliff, the Body of a Roman Lady, &c. &c.

ONE morning, as Mr. Richardſon was ſeated at breakfaſt with his ſon and daughter, the latter, addreſſing her fa-

ther, ſaid: "My dear Sir, do you re-
"collect that to-morrow is my brother's
"birth-day?"

"Perfectly; he will then complete
"his twelfth year. During the life of
"your ever-revered mother, it uſed to
"be a day of jubilee; and as good old
"cuſtoms ſhould never be forgotten,
"we will dedicate it to pleaſure, and
"Charles, as the hero of the fête, ſhall
"dictate our amuſements."

"And ſhall I do the ſame, Papa,
"when I reach my tenth year?" aſked Mary.

"Undoubtedly. Some parents re-
"joice at the birth of their children:
"but it appears to me far more natural
"to rejoice as they increaſe in years, if
"they grow up in a manner that does
"credit to the care beſtowed on them;

"and

"and as that ſatisfaction is mine, it ſhall
" on your birth-day be teſtified in any
" manner you pleaſe."

"My dear father, I am glad I know
" ſo long before-hand — I have two
" months to conſider; poor Charles has
" but a few hours, in which caſe I ſhould
" think of a thouſand plans without being
" able to fix on one."

"Are you quite ſure, Mary," ſaid Mr. Richardſon, "that time will remove
" that difficulty?"

"Oh yes, Papa, certainly — I ſhall
" have leiſure to conſider what I moſt
" deſire, and to make preparations for
" the accompliſhment."

"I have no wiſh for more time," ſaid Charles: "my father will, I hope,
" favour us with one of our uſual Ram-

"bles; I know few amuſements that "give me equal ſatisfaction."

"That I will willingly do," anſwered Mr. Richardſon; "but on this holiday "ſomething more is requiſite. I ſhall "preſent you with ten guineas to diſpoſe "of in any manner you pleaſe; and as "Mary obſerves that preparation may "be neceſſary, I ſhall give it now that "I may not ſpoil your deſigns."

With theſe words Mr. Richardſon preſented his purſe to his ſon, who, receiving it reſpectfully, replied: "You "muſt be good enough, Sir, to direct "me how to expend ſo much money."

"No indeed, Charles, in this buſi-"neſs you muſt be the entire director; "make yourſelf happy, and you will "make me ſo—For the preſent, you

"will

" will retire and perform your leſſons:
" buſineſs alſo calls me for ſome hours;
" after which, if you are inclined for a
" ride, I am at your ſervice."

Charles and Mary immediately withdrew, and haſtened to fulfil the duties appointed them by their teachers.

At twelve o'clock the buſineſs of Mr. Richardſon being completed, and his young folk prepared, addreſſing them, he ſaid: " You muſt not this morning
" expect a pleaſant excurſion, as it will
" be confined to the city, my affairs
" calling me to a ſilk-merchant's near
" Spitalfields."

On entering the carriage, Mary looking round ſaid: " Papa, can you

" inform me why the ſquare we reſide in " was called Finſbury-ſquare?"

" In the firſt place," replied Mr. Richardſon, " it is in the manor of Finſ- " bury, formerly called Finſbury Fields, " of conſiderable extent. I alſo recol- " lect ſeeing it mentioned in an old re- " cord, as being granted by Richard II. " to Robert de Willingham, then Pre- " bendary of the pariſh of St. Giles, " Cripplegate. In the grant it is called " the *Garden of Vineſbury*, from which it " may be conjectured that it was then a " garden, or rather a vineyard."

Thus converſing they reached Shoreditch; when Charles obſerved that he recollected having heard that ſtreet obtained its name from a miſtreſs of Edward the Fourth's having either dwelt or died there.

" That

" That ſuppoſition is doubtleſs er-
" roneous: the hiſtorian Stowe con-
" jectures it to have been named, either
" from the number of ſewers, or from
" its having, in the time of Edward the
" Third, been the reſidence and eſtate
" of a rich knight called Sir John de
" Sordiſh."

" I remember hearing of Jane Shore,
" Papa," ſaid Mary; " ſhe was ſtarved
" to death by the order of that cruel
" king, Richard the Third."

" My dear Mary, I am glad that you
" did not make that obſervation before
" any one leſs partial than a father and
" brother, as it would have convinced
" them of your ignorance of the hiſ-
" tory of your own country.—A pro-
" clamation was undoubtedly iſſued, for-
" bidding all perſons to ſuccour that un-

"happy woman, Jane Shore; yet ſhe
"outlived her perſecutor, Richard,
"many years, and not leſs than forty
"after her performing public penance at
"St. Paul's Croſs."

"My dear Papa," ſaid Mary bluſhing, "I will in future be more careful
"before I venture to ſpeak of hiſtorical
"events."

"You will do well to inform yourſelf
"fully of them.—Jane Shore was in
"early life the happy bride of an honeſt
"goldſmith in Lombard-ſtreet; but unfortunately poſſeſſing more beauty than
"virtue, ſhe was unable to reſiſt the
"dazzling offers of a licentious monarch, and bartered her fame and honour for the gaudy trappings of a
"court. During the life of Edward ſhe
"lived in the greateſt ſplendour, and as

"much eſteemed as a woman who had
"ſo groſsly degraded herſelf could ex-
"pect. She was a ſteady friend to the
"diſtreſſed, and never failed to inter-
"cede with her Royal ſeducer in their
"behalf. Honours and diſtinctions were
"diſtributed according to her deſires,
"and the Qeeen herſelf had ſcarcely
"more power.——But, my children,
"mark the ſad reverſe. No ſooner was
"King Edward dead, than ſhe was ac-
"cuſed of her guilt—the wages of her
"iniquity were taken from her—thoſe
"ſycophants who formerly bowed in her
"preſence now reviled her openly—and
"finally ſhe was condemned to do pub-
"lic penance for her crime, by walking
"barefoot through the city covered with
"a ſheet, and bearing a taper in her hand
"at noon day, officers going before her,

" and forbidding any one to give her
" comfort or ſhelter. Notwithſtanding
" this, a learned hiſtorian, Sir Thomas
" More, I believe, informs us that he
" himſelf ſaw her forty years after this
" event—then old, haggard, pale, and
" wrinkled—gathering herbs in the fields
" near the city to ſupport nature, and
" ſcarcely covered with tattered raiment
" ſufficient to ſcreen her from the wea-
" ther.——Think, my children, on the
" contraſt. The woman who a few years
" before was ſurrounded with all the
" pageantry of a court, the miſtreſs of
" a palace, feeding upon the choiceſt
" dainties, drinking the moſt luſcious
" wines, and clothed in ſilks and ſpark-
" ling with jewels, was now reduced to
" ſleep on a dunghill; happy indeed if
" ſhe could conceal her ſhivering and

" exhauſted

" exhauſted frame in any wretched ho-
" vel! feeding on even the refuſe of
" beaſts, drinking from ſtagnant pools,
" and clothed in rags that humanity
" ſhuddered to behold!—In thoſe mo-
" ments of ſuffering, think you not ſhe
" would exclaim in the bitterneſs of her
" contrition: 'Oh that I had never de-
" viated from the paths of rectitude!'"

" Poor creature!" exclaimed Mary, a tear gliſtening on her cheek, " ſhe
" was ſeverely puniſhed, and I hope
" God forgave her: but ſurely, Papa,
" after Richard's death ſome one might
" have afforded her a little aſſiſtance?"

" They undoubtedly might; but cer-
" tain it is that the edict againſt her was
" never repealed, either through care-
" leſſneſs or ſome other cauſe, and ſhe
" died in extreme wretchedneſs."

"To live ſo many years in ſuch cruel "neceſſity was dreadful," ſaid Charles.

"Forty years, my ſon, appears to the "eye of youth a conſiderable period; "but was that term too long for her to "repent of the ſins of her early days? "—Surely not. Perhaps that time was "allotted her for contrition, and to "make her peace with the Power ſhe "had ſo grievouſly offended.—If it was "ſo, and ſhe profited of the correction "by truly repenting her miſdeeds, her "death was undoubtedly more happy, "though probably upon a dunghill, "than had ſhe died in the midſt of her "vices, on a bed of down, and under a "royal canopy.

"She was, as I have already in-"formed you, naturally charitable and "humane; qualities which might plead

"ſo

" ſo powerfully for her at the Throne of
" Mercy, that her great Creator might
" reſolve to ſnatch her from the de-
" ſtruction that hung over her, and
" make poverty the means of fulfilling
" his holy will. Sorrow and repent-
" ance frequently go hand in hand; and
" the hours ſhe uſed to waſte in riot, we
" will hope in her latter years were de-
" voted to more praiſe-worthy purſuits.
" Proſperity has many temptations, and
" is far more difficult to bear with equa-
" nimity than poverty: the firſt fre-
" quently corrupts the heart, the latter
" often mends it. The power of ſatis-
" fying our wiſhes, unleſs reſtrained by
" religion, is dangerous; while, on the
" contrary, diſtreſs and ſorrow, by con-
" tracting our means of gratification,
" often ſubdue our vices. Thus then

" puniſh-

" puniſhment is ſalutary: and you may " remember that St. Paul ſays, '*Whom* " *the Lord loveth he chaſteneth, and* " *ſcourgeth every ſon whom he receiveth.*'"

This diſcourſe brought them to Spitalfields; where Mr. Richardſon having tranſacted his buſineſs, he re-entered the carriage. " I think I have heard, Sir," ſaid Charles, " that moſt of the inhabi- " tants of this quarter of the town are " ſilk-weavers?"

" You are right. The ſilk-weavers " originally ſettled here when they fled " from France, on account of the per- " ſecution for religion; paying the Eng- " liſh for the protection they afforded, " by bringing an art among them with " which they were before unacquaint- " ed."

" I ſhould conjecture this ground has " been

" been long built upon, Sir?" ſaid Charles.

" It has ſo; though I have read that " in the year 1576 this ſpot was a large " field, called Loleſworth, and at that " period broken up for clay to make " bricks. In digging, many earthen " pots, called urns, were diſcovered full " of aſhes and burnt bones—doubtleſs " appertaining to the Romans when they " inhabited the kingdom, and whoſe " cuſtom it was to burn their dead, and " inter their aſhes in urns. The greater " part of theſe veſſels, as well as con- " taining the aſhes of the dead, had in " each of them a piece of copper money, " with the name of the reigning Empe- " ror at the time of the interment. " There were likewiſe found ſeveral " white earthen pots, not unlike our " ſtone

" ſtone jugs, with necks and handles.
" Theſe apparently had contained ſome
" liquid, though dried up by time: for
" many glaſs phials were alſo dug up,
" ſome of which were full of a taſteleſs
" water, and others contained a thick
" oil; doubtleſs perfumes or balſams of
" great eſtimation at the time of putting
" them in the earth, but whoſe ſmell and
" virtues were loſt.

" In digging the ſame field they alſo
" threw up ſeveral diſhes and cups of a
" beautiful red earth; theſe were in-
" dented with Roman characters, as
" were alſo ſome white earthen lamps
" diſcovered at the ſame time. "

" Stone coffins containing bones, and
" ſeveral bones that had apparently, by
" the iron nails near them, been incloſed
" in wooden coffins, were alſo found.—"

" Theſe

" Theſe were conjectured to have be-
" longed to the Britons or Saxons after
" the government of the Romans."

" Such diſcoveries particularly inte-
" reſt me," replied Charles, " as they
" enable me to contraſt the cuſtoms of
" former times with the preſent."

" Now we are upon the ſubject," re-
ſumed Mr. Richardſon, " I muſt in-
" form you, that the learned antiqua-
" rian Sir Robert Cotton, in the year
" 1615, diſcovered in Radcliff Field, in
" the pariſh of Stepney, as they were
" digging ballaſt for ſhips, two monu-
" ments; the one of ſtone, the other a
" cheſt of lead, the upper part of which
" was indented with a border in the
" form of ſcollop ſhells. At the head
" and at the foot of the ſtone coffin
" were two jars, each of three feet in
" length;

" length; and on the ſides a number of " bottles of bright red earth, ſome " plain, others painted; alſo ſeveral " glaſs phials of a peculiar ſhape, con- " taining a white liquid.

" Within the leaden cheſt was the " body of a woman, as the ſurgeons " judged by the ſkull; on either ſide " of her were two ſceptres of ivory " eighteen inches long, and upon the " breaſt, as they judged by the poſition, " a little figure of Cupid neatly cut in " white ſtone; there were alſo two " pieces of jet, with round heads in the " form of nails, three inches long. Sir " Robert Cotton conjectures theſe bo- " dies to have lain in the earth ever ſince " the year of our Lord 239; as they " alſo at the ſame time found different " coins of Pupienus, Gordian, and the

" Emperors

"Emperors of that period. The body
"of the lady the antiquarians judged,
" from the ornaments, to have been that
"of ſome Proprætor's wife, who reſided
"in Britain during the Roman govern-
"ment.

" From this diſcovery they alſo con-
" jecture, that London being ſo nearly
" adjoining to this burial-place, it was
" the metropolis of Britain in the time
" of the Romans; as it may be pre-
" ſumed, from the burial of this lady,
" that the Legate, or Proprætor of the
" Emperor, had his chief reſidence near
" the ſpot; and that the great buſineſs
" of the provinces, as to civil matters,
" was conducted in his *Prætorium* there.
" This name, Mary, I ſhall explain to
" you: it was firſt uſed by the Romans
" for their general's tent, but afterwards

" brought

"brought to the city, and equally ap-
"plied to the dwelling-house of the
"Governor."

This account lasted until they reached home, where they found dinner prepared; after which they passed the remainder of the day in such amusements as might tend to improve their minds, and in consequence add to their future satisfaction. Charles only, attended by the servant, in the course of the afternoon, went out to make some trifling purchases for the ensuing day.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Respectability of remembering Promises—Proper Behaviour to Servants—Money well disposed of—Good Actions their own Recompense.

CHARLES and Mary rose at an early hour, and were already in the breakfast-parlour when Mr. Richardson came down. Mutual congratulations having taken place, Mary said, "My "dear brother, I long to hear where "you intend to take us to-day."

"Charles has doubtless fixed his "plan," answered Mr. Richardson; "and

" and as I conſider both you and myſelf,
" Mary, in this caſe, as little more than
" viſitors, we will wait with patience
" the development; as pleaſure when
" it comes unexpectedly affords us dou-
" ble ſatisfaction."

" My dear Sir," ſaid Charles, " I
" almoſt fear to uſe the power you have
" given me. Will you not condeſcend,
" in caſe I exceed the bounds you think
" prudent, to inform me of my error?"

" Be under no apprehenſion. If I
" think you faulty, I will not heſitate to
" tell you ſo. If I remain ſilent, conſi-
" der it as a mark of approbation.—But
" let us haſten breakfaſt: I tranſacted all
" my mercantile buſineſs yeſterday, in
" order that this whole day might be
" given to pleaſure."

Breakfaſt over, Charles, addreſſing his

father, ſaid: "My dear Sir, I have heard "that it is cuſtomary to give preſents "on our birth-days to thoſe we love "beſt; but what can I give in any man-"ner adequate to the ſenſe I have of "your tenderneſs? Nothing.—I muſt "therefore make no attempt, but, by "daily acts of duty, endeavour to ſhew "that you have not thrown away your "goodneſs on one inſenſible of its value." Mr. Richardſon warmly embraced his ſon; when Charles, turning to his ſiſter, continued: "My dear Mary, to teſtify "my affection for you, any more than "for my father, is to me impoſſible; "but I know you love me too well not "to receive a little proof of my regard "which I purchaſed yeſterday after-"noon." So ſaying, he produced Gold-ſmith's Hiſtory of England, and ſome

other

other books, which Mary accepted with rapture, ſaying: "My dear Charles, "though your preſent is a little reproof "to me for my neglect in reading hiſ- "tory, I receive it with pleaſure, and "hope in future to make my Papa ſatis- "fied with my application."

"And now, my dear Sir," ſaid Charles, "I have only to entreat Mrs. Morton "(the houſekeeper) to come up for a "few minutes. She has been with you "many years, and I would not wiſh her "to think ſhe is forgotten by one to "whom ſhe was kind in his infancy."

Mr. Richardſon rung the bell, and deſired the ſervant to requeſt the old lady to walk up.

On her entrance, Charles, placing her a chair, ſaid, as he found ſhe declined being ſeated, "My dear Madam,

"you

" you muſt ſit down; my father has for
" this day delegated his power to me,
" and I inſiſt on your obliging me."
The old lady, thus preſſed, took her place, ſaying, " I can only wiſh, my
" good young Gentleman, with many
" returns of this day, that your years of
" maturity may equal the promiſe of
" your childhood. Then will my maſter
" be a happy father, and yourſelf a no
" leſs happy man."—" I thank you
" heartily," anſwered Charles; " but
" your congratulation is not complete;
" it wants the affectionate kiſs you uſed
" to beſtow upon me on ſuch oc-
" caſions."

Thus ſpeaking, he took her round the neck and affectionately ſaluted her.

The old lady was moved almoſt to

tears, and warmly prayed that God might bleſs him.

"And now," ſaid Charles, "I re-
"member three or four years ago being
"very miſchievous, and breaking your
"reading-glaſſes, and, when you repri-
"manded me, my promiſing to buy you
"a new pair when I grew to be a man.
"Now, though that is not the caſe, yet
"as my father ſo plentifully ſupplied
"me with money yeſterday, it is but
"juſt to pay the debt, and I kope you
"will keep theſe for my ſake."

With theſe words he preſented a handſome pair of reading-glaſſes, which the old lady received, ſaying, "You are
"too generous, my good Sir; but I
"will preſerve them to the laſt day of
"my life, in remembrance of your ſtrict

" obſervation of your promiſe, though " I never recollected it ſince the time it " was made."

"You will alſo favour me," ſaid Charles, " by diſtributing theſe two " guineas among the ſervants, who will " buy what pleaſes them beſt."

Mrs. Morton received the money, and, after repeating her thanks, left the apartment.

" My good boy," ſaid Mr. Richardſon, " your behaviour meets my entire " approbation; and though nothing is " more derogatory than making your- " ſelf improperly familiar with ſervants, " yet they ſhould ever be treated with " kindneſs, and their friendſhip conci- " liated by thoſe little attentions, which " thoſe they ſerve have it ſo amply in " their power to beſtow. When you

"attain manhood, always endeavour to "make your ſervants your friends, in "which caſe their affection will ſecure "their fidelity; while, on the contrary, "a maſter or miſtreſs who are tyranni-"cal in their families, will be ſurround-"ed with enemies, who are regard-"leſs what injury they do them."

The coach at that moment driving up to the door, Mr. Richardſon ſaid, "Charles, we are at your ſervice; the "coachman waits your orders."

Charles bowed; and having deſired the ſervant to drive to the Borough, they entered the carriage.

Mary's curioſity was entirely awaken-ed; but as her father forbore to queſ-tion, ſhe did not venture to aſk where they were going; until, turning into a rather narrow ſtreet, ſhe ſaid, "I

"will

" will lay any wager, Charles, that when " my birth-day comes I ſhall plan a " more pleaſing excurſion than you " have done."

The coach ſtopping, Charles made no reply; and the ſervant opening the door, he leaped out, followed by his father and Mary. Mr. Richardſon's curioſity almoſt equalled Mary's; when knocking at a door he heard Charles aſk for the maſter of the houſe by name; and being ſhown into a parlour, the gentleman immediately attended.

Addreſſing him with great diffidence and modeſty, Charles ſaid, " If I miſ- " take not, Sir, you are the Treaſurer to " the Society for the Diſcharge of Small " Debts; I learned your addreſs from " the newſpaper ſome time ſince; and " as my father has preſented me a ſum

"of money to diſpoſe of as I pleaſe, "you will favour me by taking theſe "five guineas towards liberating the "moſt deſerving character you know." The Treaſurer looked firſt at Charles, then at Mr. Richardſon, who at length ſaid, "Sir, my ſon has my entire appro-"bation for what he does."

The Treaſurer bowed; and after ſome converſation Mr. Richardſon preſenting his addreſs, they re-entered the carriage.

"Where is our next deſtination, "Charles?" ſaid his father. "Have "you given orders?"—"No, Sir; you "now muſt dictate: I have done what "you commanded yeſterday. I have "*made myſelf happy*, and now am willing "either to return home, or to attend "you where you pleaſe."

"My dear child," anſwered Mr. Richardſon,

Richardſon, " you have alſo made me
" happy; and before to-morrow you
" will be the means of cheering the
" heart of ſome unfortunate creature
" languiſhing under the accumulated
" evils of poverty and want of liberty.
" Your bounty will perhaps give back
" to ſociety a deſerving object; a huſ-
" band to his wife, a father to his chil-
" dren, who will never ceaſe to implore
" the bleſſings of Heaven on their bene-
" factor. Should it not be ſo; ſhould
" the object be even unworthy, your
" own heart will ſufficiently recompenſe
" you, and the deed will be regiſtered
" with that Power who will not fail to
" reward it. But, my dear Mary, you
" do not ſpeak; are you not ſatisfied
" with Charles's arrangement? At leaſt

" he will think ſo, if you do not expreſs
" your ſentiments on the ſubject."

" Oh Charles!" exclaimed ſhe, throwing her arms around him, " I am not
" jealous of my Papa's loving you, for
" I love you as much as he does; but
" you appear ſo good, and I feel myſelf
" ſo naughty, that I could almoſt not
" love myſelf."

Charles preſſed her to his boſom, and kiſſed the tears from her cheek, ſaying, " My dear ſiſter, how can you ſo un-
" juſtly accuſe yourſelf? My father,
" I am convinced, loves us equally;
" and much as I value his affection, I
" am content to ſhare it with you."

" I know that very well," replied ſhe; " but when I ſee *how* you have laid
" out your money, and conſider *how* I

" ſhould

" ſhould have ſpent mine, had my birth-
" day happened firſt, it will make me
" ſorrowful. I ſhould have deviſed
" nothing but riding a great way, and
" gratifying myſelf."—" If I may judge
" by Charles's countenance," anſwered
Mr. Richardſon, " *he* has gratified him-
" ſelf. But, my dear child, you have
" no occaſion for ſelf-reproach; if you
" had choſen a ſhort journey into the
" country, it would have been equally
" agreeable to us all."—" Ah, Papa!"
replied Mary, " though you are good
" enough to excuſe it, I am well aware
" of the difference. My pleaſure would
" have ended with the evening, while
" his, on the contrary, will be more
" lively every time he recollects it."

" True, my love," anſwered Mr.
Richardſon: " but, if you conſider the

" matter calmly, your brother's conduct " in this caſe has been particularly ſelf- " iſh; for he has paid a ſmall ſum, to " receive exorbitant intereſt in return."

Mr. Richardſon then pulled the check-ſtring, and ordered the coachman to drive to Richmond, ſaying good-humouredly to his ſon, " As you have " been ſo extravagant this morning, " Charles, I muſt be neceſſitated to " treat you myſelf with a little excur- " ſion."

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

An Excurſion—Kenſington Palace—Remains of an ancient Palace at Richmond—The Park—Anecdote of the Biſhop of Wincheſter—Bridewell a Palace as early as the Time of King John—Begged by Biſhop Ridley to be converted into an Hoſpital—Cruelty of King John to his Nephew Arthur—Vagrants—The Gipſy Girl—The Folly and Wickedneſs of wiſhing to pry into Futurity.

THE morning was uncommonly fine, and the freſh air exhilarated the ſpirits of the whole party. Charles and Mary

ſung a lively air, and their father related to them little intereſting anecdotes which attracted their whole attention, until, reaching Kenſington, Mary's curioſity was excited by the palace, of which her father gave her the following account. "This building," ſaid he, "was origi-" nally the ſeat of Chancellor Finch, " afterwards Earl of Nottingham, but " was purchaſed by King William, who " greatly improved it. Queen Mary " enlarged the gardens; and her ſiſter " Queen Anne was ſo pleaſed with the " ſpot, that ſhe frequently ſupped in the " green-houſe. Queen Caroline com-" pleted the deſign by extending the " gardens to three miles and a half in " compaſs, and bringing the Serpentine " River into them."

Converſing cheerfully they at length reached

reached Richmond; where leaving the coach at an inn, and ordering dinner, they rambled through the town. Mary and Charles were delighted with the beautiful views that every where preſented themſelves, until, returning from the water-ſide over the green, Mr. Richardſon made them remark an ancient gateway with battlements, which he informed them was the remains of an old palace. Mary entreated him, if he recollected any account of the town or palace, to relate it; when he obliged her as follows. "This village is reckoned the "fineſt in England, and was anciently "called *Shene*, which in the Saxon "tongue ſignifies *Reſplendant*. Here "once ſtood a Royal Palace, in which "Edward the Third is ſaid to have died "of grief for the loſs of his heroic ſon

"the

" the Black Prince. Here alſo died
" Queen Anne, the wife of Richard the
" Second, who firſt taught the Engliſh
" Ladies the uſe of the ſide-ſaddle; for
" before her time they rode aſtride, as
" they do ſtill in moſt foreign countries.
" Richard was ſo afflicted at her death,
" that he deſerted and defaced this pa-
" lace; but it was afterwards repaired
" and beautified by Henry the Fifth,
" who alſo founded three religious
" houſes near it. In 1497 it was de-
" ſtroyed by fire, while Henry the
" Seventh reſided in it; but in the year
" 1501 that Prince rebuilt it, and com-
" manded that the village ſhould in
" future be called Richmond—he hav-
" ing borne the title of Earl of Rich-
" mond previouſly to his obtaining the
" Crown. Here he died; as did alſo,

" many

" many years after, his grandaughter " Queen Elizabeth."

The hour of dinner drawing near, they adjourned to the inn, and, after taking a cheerful meal, prepared for a walk. From the top of the hill they entered the Park, which, Mr. Richardſon informed them, is ſaid to be eleven miles in compaſs, and was encloſed by a brick wall during the reign of Charles the Second.

Having reached the riſe called King Henry's mount, Mr. Richardſon made his children remark, that they had from thence a proſpect of ſix counties. " And " now," ſaid he, " ſuppoſe we reſt " here for half an hour. To paſs the " time, let each of us relate ſome little " hiſtorical ſketch that we have read, and " conſidered as particularly intereſting."

" Willingly,

"Willingly, my dear Sir," anſwered Charles. "I ſome days ago met with "an anecdote of Ethelwald, Biſhop of "Wincheſter, that greatly pleaſed me."

"Oblige us by relating it," ſaid Mr. Richardſon.

"Ethelwald, in the time of a great "famine, having aſſiſted the poor to the "utmoſt extent of his fortune, after-"wards ſold all the ſacred veſſels of his "church to relieve their neceſſities; "ſaying, he could ſee no reaſon why "the ſenſeleſs temples of God ſhould "abound in riches, and the living tem-"ples of the Holy Spirit (meaning man) "want bread."

"You do well," ſaid Mr. Richardſon, "to remember ſo bright a trait of cha-"racter, and which is particularly praiſe-"worthy, when you recollect the ſuper-

"ſtition

" ſition of the age in which it took place.
" —Now we are upon the ſubject, I re-
" member being highly pleaſed ſome
" years back in reading the account of
" a letter ſent by Biſhop Ridley to Sir
" William Cecil, requeſting him to
" ſpeak to the King for the old dwelling
" of Bridewell, to be converted into a
" houſe for the poor.—I muſt here di-
" greſs to inform you, that Bridewell
" was an ancient Palace, and took its
" name from a well dedicated to one of
" the Saint Brides or Bridgets. It was
" the reſidence of ſeveral of our Mo-
" narchs, even as early as King John,
" and was originally formed out of the
" remains of an ancient caſtle, which
" was erected near the Thames. Henry
" the Eighth rebuilt this palace for the
" reception of the Emperor Charles,

" who

" who viſited England in 1522; but " after all the expence, the Emperor " lodged in the Black Friars, and only " his attendants in this palace. Henry " the Eighth himſelf frequently reſided " in it; but towards the latter part of " his reign it fell to decay, and, as I be- " fore informed you, was begged by " Biſhop Ridley of Edward the Sixth, " to be converted to ſome charitable " purpoſe. In his letter he ſtrongly en- " forced the words of our Saviour, and " the reward promiſed to the charitable: " *Come, ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit* " *the kingdom prepared for you from the* " *beginning of the world: for I was an* " *hungered and ye gave me meat, I was* " *naked and ye clothed me, I was in priſon* " *and ye miniſtered unto me.* This letter " had the deſired effect, and Ridley's

" name

" name muſt ever be remembered with
" honour.—And now, Mary, we wait
" your little ſtory; after which we will
" continue our walk."

" My dear father, I feel that I am
" but a poor narrator, but your parti-
" ality will excuſe my defects; as I re-
" late an event in hiſtory which in read-
" ing yeſterday coſt me ſome tears.——
" King John, furnamed *Sans Terre*, or
" *Lackland*, was the fourth ſon of King
" Henry the Second. He aſcended the
" throne in the year 1199, after the
" death of his brother Richard the Firſt,
" though it lawfully belonged to Arthur
" Duke of Britany, who was the ſon of
" Geoffrey, his eldeſt brother. The
" King of France and the Barons de-
" clared in favour of Arthur, though
" only a child of twelve years old, and

" a diſ-

" a diſaſtrous war enſued, in which the
" young Prince was taken priſoner by
" ſurpriſe at Mirabeau in Britany. The
" events that followed are enveloped
" in darkneſs; but, according to the
" moſt probable account, John ſent a
" ruffian with a murderous commiſſion
" to the Caſtle of Falaiſe; when Hubert,
" conſtable of the fortreſs, moved with
" pity, feigning that he would execute
" the mandate himſelf, diſmiſſed the
" murderer, and iſſued a report that the
" young Prince was dead. The Bretons
" were reſolved to revenge this murder,
" and by their violence reduced Hubert
" to the neceſſity of confeſſing that
" Arthur was ſtill living.—This diſco-
" very proved fatal to the young Prince.
" John removed him to the Caſtle of
" Rouen, and, coming thither in the
" night

" night time, commanded him to be
" brought before him. Arthur, aware
" of his danger, begged for mercy; but
" neither his innocence nor the ties of
" blood could prevail; the inhuman
" tyrant ſtabbed his nephew with his
" own hand, and threw his body into
" the Seine."

" My good girl," exclaimed Mr. Richardſon, " I muſt honeſtly confeſs " you have aſtoniſhed me very agree- " ably. If you continue to retain ſo " well what you read, and to relate it ſo " agreeably, both myſelf and Charles " muſt be obſervant; we ſhall be thrown " into ſhade."

" I always knew," ſaid Charles, affectionately ſaluting his ſiſter, " that " Mary could relate in a very pleaſing " manner, becauſe ſhe has frequently

" obliged

" obliged me with little anecdotes: her " timidity alone has prevented your en- " joying this ſatisfaction before."

The praiſes of her father and brother warmed the heart of Mary, though they called a bluſh upon her cheek. " If " praiſes are ſo eaſily obtained," replied ſhe, " I hope I ſhall always de- " ſerve them."

Mutually ſatisfied with each other, they reſumed their walk, and, croſſing the Park, reached Ham Common; but had not proceeded far, when Mary's attention was attracted by a company of beggars ſeated round a fire which they had kindled under a hedge. Mr. Richardſon had ſcarcely time to reply to her queſtions, by informing her they were wandering vagabonds, called Gipſies, before they were ſurrounded by the whole

whole party, exclaiming, "Bleſs your "noble honour, and the ſweet young "Gentleman and Lady's beautiful faces; "do condeſcend to croſs our hands "with ſilver, and we will tell their for-"tunes."

Mr. Richardſon's temper was replete with kindneſs, and his humanity ever alive to ſufferers of every deſcription who had the recommendation of either honeſty or induſtry to recommend them; but as Gipſies can boaſt of neither of theſe qualifications, he bid them be-gone in a voice of aſperity that ad-mitted of no reply. "If you do not "inſtantly leave us," ſaid he, "inſtead "of telling our fortunes, I ſhall be "tempted to foretel yours; that you "will ſpeedily be committed to jail: "therefore, as the choice is yet in your

"power,

"power, begone; neither my children "nor myſelf are inclined to liſten to the "falſehoods you have ready upon every "occaſion."

This threat was too ſerious to be neglected, and the Gipſies obeyed, though not without viſible reluctance.

"I remember a long time ago," ſaid Mary, "hearing the houſemaid tell an-"other of the maid ſervants, that a Gip-"ſy told her fortune, and that it all "came true."

"My dear child," returned Mr. Richardſon, "if for a ſingle moment you "conſult your underſtanding, you will "ſee the folly of ſuch a declaration, "which is at once impious, and a proof "that the perſon who makes it muſt "poſſeſs a weak mind. The ſacred "writings tell us, that even the angels

" themſelves are unacquainted with the
" wiſe deſigns of their great Creator:
" can we then, even for a moment, be
" ſilly enough to ſuppoſe that they are
" divulged to the laſt and moſt worth-
" leſs of the human race? No, my be-
" loved girl: from childhood brought
" up in hypocriſy and every ſpecies of
" diſſimulation, theſe people practiſe
" upon the ignorant and unwary; whom
" they have frequently been known to
" entrap to their ruin, by perſuading
" them to give up all they poſſeſſed, in
" order to obtain hidden treaſures, or
" by other falſities invented to anſwer
" their abandoned purpoſes."

" I recollect ſeveral inſtances of de-
" pravity that I have read," ſaid Charles,
" which will always make me view theſe
" people with abhorrence."

With ſuch diſcourſe they continued their route, until Mr. Richardſon obſerving that it grew late, they retook the way to Richmond, though not by the ſame path. They had not proceeded far down a lane, when they perceived advancing towards them a little girl about four or five years old, whom even filth and rags could not entirely disfigure. In the moſt piteous tone ſhe entreated their charity, qualifying her requeſt by proteſting ſhe had taken no food for two days.

"A great while indeed!" anſwered Mr. Richardſon; "and conſidering your "long abſtinence you look tolerably fat "and hearty: ſome pains too have been "taken to teach you to beg. Pray, "who taught you?"

"My mammy, Sir, an' pleaſe you."

"She

" She has not thrown away her pains.
" You belong to the Gipſies, I ſuppoſe,
" that we met upon the common?"

" Yes, your honour."

" I thought ſo. What is your name?"

" Little Debby, your honour."

" Well, little Debby," continued Mr. Richardſon, " I cannot but ſay I feel " inclined to give you ſomething; but " it entirely depends upon your ſpeak- " ing truth; which if you do, I have a " ſhilling at your ſervice."

" Oh dear, a whole ſhilling! Indeed, " indeed I will ſpeak the truth, your " honour."

" Well then, what had you for ſup- " per laſt night? Remember, truth " and the ſhilling go together."

" La, Sir," anſwered the child, " I " had nothing indeed but a bit of the

" old goose that lame John took out of " the pond upon the common. I had " not indeed, your honour. John " could not get one of the lambs, for the " farmer's great dog."

" Unhappy child!" exclaimed Mr. Richardson, " thou art not yet quite cor- " rupted. There," added he, " is the " shilling; but how happens it that you " are from your mother and the rest of " your party?"

" She sent me down the lane to beg, " and I slipped down a bank and cut my " foot sadly. I staid to hold it in the " pond to make it not bleed."

As she spoke she held up her dirty bare foot, and shewed a cut that made Mary shudder.

" Oh, my dear Papa," said she in a whisper,

whiſper, "I wiſh I could give this poor "child a pair of ſhoes."

"I know not how we could immedi- "ately procure them," returned Mr. Richardſon; "and in all probability "they would be uſeleſs: the wretches "to whom ſhe belongs would perhaps "take them from her; and even ſhould "they not, when they were worn out "ſhe would only be the more ſenſible "of the want of others.—But God for- "bid that I ſhould prevent the charita- "ble wiſhes of your heart! Queſtion "the child upon the ſubject, and judge "from her anſwers."

Mary preſſed her father's hand, and, drawing near the little girl, ſaid, "Do "you not wiſh for ſhoes? Your feet "muſt be frequently cut and bruiſed "from being bare."

"Lauk, Miſs, I uſed to cry for ſhoes,
"but now I don't mind them.—I once
"had red ſhoes, before I came to my
"mammy."

Mr. Richardſon looked attentively at the child. "Where," ſaid he, "did "you live when you had the red "ſhoes?"

The little girl looked fearfully around, but remained ſilent.

"Speak," reſumed Mr. Richardſon; "if you tell truth, no one ſhall hurt "you."

"Look that nobody is coming then. "—I lived with a fine Lady in a great "houſe, and a gentleman, in juſt ſuch "another nice coat as you have on, "uſed to kiſs me and call me his Betſey. "My mammy ſays they only kept me "out of charity while ſhe was in the

"country;

" country; and though I love them I " dare not talk of them, becauſe ſhe " beat me for it once till I could not " walk."

" Poor child!" ſaid Mr. Richardſon kindly, " I will protect you: try " if you cannot recollect the place " where you lived, or the Gentleman's " name who was ſo good to you."

The little girl ſtill appeared fearful, but after ſome perſuaſion replied—" Re- " member your promiſe not to tell.— " Every body uſed to call the Gentle- " man Sir, but I called him Papa."

" How came you with the Gipſies? " Can you remember that?"

" Yes, better than any thing elſe, I " was ſo ſadly frightened.—Nanny, that " walked in the fields with me, went " over the ſtile with the Gipſies, and

" left me with my mammy to take care " of me. But I heard Nanny cry out, " and my mammy ſnatched me up and " ran away with me, took away my red " ſhoes and frock, and whipped me " ſadly; and ſo ſhe would again if ſhe " knew that I told you."

" Well, be a good girl, and inſtead of " returning to the Gipſies you ſhall go " with me."

" Oh lauk! I dare not indeed, Sir; " my mammy would kill me."

Mr. Richardſon with difficulty ſooth-ed her fears, and continued his way to-wards Richmond, his children hanging on his arms, and little Debby ſkipping before with her bare feet, though not without frequently looking back like a timid hare, who though at a diſtance ſtill fears the hounds.

" I hope,

"I hope, my dear father," ſaid Charles, "that thoſe wretches will not "purſue us."

"There is no fear," anſwered Mr. Richardſon. "We are in too public a "place for them to venture an attack: "guilt makes them cowardly; their de-"predations are uſually confined to "robbing the farmers of their poultry, "lambs, or pigs, or to ſtripping ſuch as "intruſt themſelves with them in pri-"vate places; in which caſe you muſt "allow they merit the puniſhment they "receive."

This aſſurance calmed the fears of Charles and Mary, and they haſtened cheerfully forward, and had nearly reached the town, when on the part of Mary this ſatisfaction met a conſiderable drawback; for, happening to put her

hand into her pocket, ſhe miſſed a watch which her father had preſented her with ſome few days before, and, forgetting her fears of the Gipſies, warmly entreated him to return and ſeek it, as ſhe muſt have dropped it by the way.

"No, no, my love," anſwered Mr. Richardſon, "believe me, the ſearch "would be fruitleſs, unleſs you could "examine the Gipſies, whom I obſerv-"ed very cloſe to you, and who doubt-"leſs have picked your pocket."

"I know one of them touched me, "for I ſhrunk back," replied ſhe. "I "am grieved that I have loſt it, though "indeed, my dear Papa, I did not de-"ſerve it."

"Not deſerve it, Mary? In that "opinion I muſt differ from you ſo far, "that if your watch is not regained by

"advertiſe-

" advertiſements, I will preſent you
" with another, of which I know you
" will be more careful."

Mary hung down her head, and burſt into tears. " Oh Sir," ſaid ſhe, " I " deſerve nothing but the puniſhment I " have properly received. Till you " told me better, I was thinking how " clever it was to hear all that was to " happen; and had I been alone, I dare " ſay I ſhould have liſtened to theſe " wicked people."

" My dear child," ſaid her father, " the bare idea of ſuch a danger " makes me ſhudder for you. But your " inexperience and candour muſt this " time excuſe you; and the loſs you " have met with will, I hope, prove " a laſting memento to imprint it on " your memory.

" Be aſſured that all attempts to ſearch " into futurity are futile and preſump- " tuous. All good comes from the " hand of God, and ſhall we not re- " ceive the evil alſo at his own time and " pleaſure? For a moment let us ſup- " poſe we could be forewarned of any " event that is to happen; would it be " in our power to prevent it?—Surely " not. Our worldly precautions would " but the more deeply involve us; for " is it for a creature ſo inſignificant as " man to contend with his Creator, " whoſe breath gave him exiſtence, and " whoſe ſlighteſt command can in an in- " ſtant again level him with his kindred " duſt?——Far be ſuch thoughts from " us, my children! Let it be our ſtudy " to deſerve and enjoy the bleſſings lent " us, and to meet with fortitude the un- " avoidable

" avoidable ſorrows mortality is ſub-
" ject to. — The loſs you have ſuſ-
" tained I cannot grieve at, as the con-
" ſequence I truſt will be ſalutary. The
" folly of wiſhing to look into futurity
" might have grown up with you, and,
" as you increaſed in years, have made
" you the dupe and laughing-ſtock of
" thoſe, who not poſſeſſing a tenth part
" of your underſtanding, had yet ſuffi-
" cient cunning to profit by your weak-
" neſs. That evil is, I truſt, removed.
" You have fortunately purchaſed ex-
" perience at the price of a watch.
" Some years hence it might have
" been obtained at the price of happi-
" neſs; for I ſhudder to ſay, that young
" imprudent people from ſuch follies
" frequently ſtamp their whole lives
" with miſery.—Do not therefore, my

" child,

" child, forget the loſs of your watch,
" but regard it not as an evil, but as a
" caution from which good is to reſult;
" and ſhould I be removed far from
" you, let it ſerve as an uſeful leſſon to
" cruſh ſuch ridiculous ideas, which
" ariſe only from idle curioſity, and
" conclude by making the weak believer
" of them at leaſt deſpicable in the eyes
" of every perſon of religion and un-
" derſtanding, if not involving them-
" ſelves in irremediable error."

Mary was unequal to any reply; but raiſing her father's hand to her lips, her tears appeared to promiſe that his words would be regiſtered upon her memory.

On their arrival at Richmond, Mr. Richardſon and his children drew ſome attention by the companion they had acquired; but falſe ſhame form no part

of

of the character of the virtuous man, and Charles and Mary were too much gratified with the hope of reſcuing a wretched infant from deſtruction, to pay attention to her ragged appearance.

Mr. Richardſon inquired the dwelling of the Magiſtrate, and haſtened thither; when, after relating his adventure, little Debby was called, and by her anſwers ſoon ſatisfied every doubt, that ſhe had in reality, a conſiderable time before, been ſtolen from her parents, but whoſe names ſhe could not remember, nor yet that of their reſidence. In conſequence of this diſcovery, a warrant was ſent to apprehend the Gipſies, and at the Magiſtrate's requeſt Mr. Richardſon and his children ſtaid to tea with his Lady.

During this interval a woman was employed to waſh and clean the little Gipſy,

whom the Lady of the houſe kindly furniſhed with clothes belonging to her own children. Cleared from the filth and rags ſhe was brought into the parlour, when all were delighted at the change that had taken place, and apparently none more ſo than herſelf; for, on Mary addreſſing her by the name of Debby, ſhe anſwered with one of her Gipſy curtſeys—"If you pleaſe, Miſs, as your "Papa and you have made me Betſey "again, I won't be little Debby any "more."

After a fruitleſs ſearch, the men ſent to apprehend the Gipſies returned: doubtleſs the acquiſition of Miſs Richardſon's watch had made their immediate departure neceſſary, as they dreaded what might be the conſequence when the loſs ſhould be diſcovered; their fears rendering

dering them careleſs of the child, though her age and manner made her uſeful to the party by exciting charity.

The evening was far advanced when Mr. Richardſon ſet out on his return to town, with his ſon and daughter, leaving the little girl with the Magiſtrate's wife, who promiſed to return their viſit in a few days.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Account of Charing Croſs, Pall Mall, &c. —Lincoln's-Inn-Fields: its Dimenſions the ſame as the Baſe of one of the Pyramids of Egypt — Account of Lord Ruſſel, his Death, and the Fortitude of his Lady—The Head of King James the Fifth, of Scotland, thrown among the Bones in the Charnel-houſe of St. Alban's Church, Wood-Street.

ON the following morning Mr. Richardſon ſent his ſervant with advertiſements to all the newſpapers, deſcribing the

the child, and the manner of her being found, ordering the ſame to be inſerted not only in the newſpapers throughout England, but alſo in thoſe of Scotland and Ireland, as the child had ſaid, in anſwer to ſome of the queſtions put to her, that ſhe croſſed over a great river in a ſhip, and was very ſick. This tribute to humanity paid, Mr. Richardſon informed his children that he was going to St. James's, and ſhould be glad of their company if they were inclined for a ride. This offer was too agreeable to be neglected; and all being ready by twelve, they entered the carriage; which ſetting them down at Charing-Croſs, they continued their way on foot.

"Near this ſpot," ſaid Mr. Richardſon, "formerly ſtood a croſs, which Ed-
"ward the Firſt cauſed to be erected for

"his

" his beloved wife Eleanor, whoſe body
" reſted here for the laſt time in the way
" to the Abbey, having been brought
" from Herby in Lincolnſhire, where
" ſhe died.

" The croſs was deſtroyed by the
" zeal of the Reformers, and afterwards
" replaced by the equeſtrian ſtatue of
" Charles the Firſt, which you now ſee.
" It was caſt in braſs by an artiſt called
" Le Soeur in the year 1633, but not
" erected until 1678. Cromwell's Par-
" liament ordered it to be ſold and
" broken to pieces; but the purchaſer,
" John Rivet, a brazier, preſerved it
" unmutilated, ſhewing ſome broken
" pieces of braſs in token of his obedi-
" ence; and he even ſold ſeveral knives
" whoſe handles he reported to have
" been made of this metal. At the Re-
" ſtoration

" ſtoration he brought forth his con-
" cealed prize, and is ſaid to have re-
" ceived a proportionate recompenſe."

Diſcourſing on various ſubjects they reached Pall Mall, which Mr. Richardſon informed them, he found by the ancient maps to have been merely appertaining to a large tract of field, with here and there a nobleman's houſe, until the year 1560, after which the ſpace between St. James's and Charing-Croſs was filled up. " Pall Mall," ſaid he, " was then laid out into a walk, or ra-
" ther a place for the exerciſe of the
" mall, a game long ſince diſuſed:
" the north ſide was alſo planted with
" trees, and on the other was the wall of
" St. James's Park.

" The Haymarket, and moſt of
" the preſent adjoining ſtreets, were
" then

" then either open fields, or lanes bound-
" ed by hedges. — More advanced,"
continued Mr. Richardſon, pointing up
the Haymarket, " was a dirty waſte,
" called the Peſt Fields; a ſpot ſet apart
" for the reception of ſuch as were at-
" tacked with that dreadful malady, the
" plague. In theſe fields was a lazaretto,
" or hoſpital, to receive them, built by
" that truly great man Lord Craven,
" who remained in London during the
" whole time of the peſtilence, admi-
" niſtering ſuccour to the diſtreſſed with
" the ſame calmneſs that he had before
" ſhewn in war. Such a man was ſurely
" at once a hero and a Chriſtian."

This converſation continued until they reached the houſe of a banker near St. James's; where Mr. Richardſon having tranſ-

tranſacted his buſineſs, he returned with his children to the carriage.

Various objects attracted their attention until they reached Lincoln's-inn-fields; when Charles aſking his father ſome queſtions reſpecting it, received the following information. "This," ſaid Mr. Richardſon, "would undoubtedly "have been one of our fineſt ſquares "had it been built upon a regular plan, "which you ſee is far from being the "caſe. In 1618 Inigo Jones, a famous "architect, drew the ground plot, and "gave it the exact dimenſions of the baſe "of one of the pyramids of Egypt."

"In this ſpot," ſaid Charles, "if I "do not miſtake, Lord Ruſſel loſt his "head, in the reign of Charles the Se-"cond, for a conſpiracy."

"He did ſo. Party writers aſſure us

"that

" that this ſquare was particularly cho-
" ſen in order to mortify the citizens
" with the ſight of their beloved leader,
" the object of their utmoſt confidence,
" expoſed ignominiouſly to all the
" rigours of the law. Though the moſt
" popular of his own party, he was ever
" the leaſt obnoxious to the oppoſite
" faction, and his melancholy fate united
" every heart ſenſible of humanity in
" tender compaſſion for him."

" His ſtory, in reading," replied Charles, " affected me deeply, as did " alſo the piety and reſignation of his " amiable wife Lady Ruſſel."

" I will endeavour to be informed " on all thoſe ſubjects myſelf," ſaid Mary; " I now feel the want of applica-" tion to hiſtory."

" Charles in this inſtance, I have no

" doubt,

"doubt, can ſatisfy your curioſity," returned Mr. Richardſon. "The misfor-
"tunes of Lord Ruſſel, he ſays, affect-
"ed him: if ſo, they are impreſſed
"upon his memory."

"As I recollect the account, my dear
"ſiſter," ſaid Charles, "it is at your
"ſervice. Lord Ruſſel, ſon of the
"Earl of Bedford, a young nobleman
"univerſally beloved, was engaged with
"ſeveral others in a conſpiracy, in
"which the different parties had vari-
"ous views; though there is no doubt
"but Lord Ruſſel's was only to exclude
"the Duke of York from the ſucceſſion,
"as he was a bigoted Papiſt, and to ſeek
"the redreſs of ſome grievances under
"which the people laboured. The plot
"being diſcovered, all concerned were
"apprehended, and among the reſt Lord

"Ruſſel. When brought to trial, though "he ſtrenuouſly proteſted that he never "entertained a deſign againſt the King's "life, yet his veracity would not ſuffer "him to deny the conſpiracy; and after "a ſhort deliberation he was found "guilty. Repeated applications were "made to the King for a pardon, and "even money to the amount of a hun-"dred thouſand pounds was offered by "the venerable Earl of Bedford to ſave "his ſon—but in vain—the King was-"inexorable.

"Lady Ruſſel, daughter and heir "of the good Earl of Southampton, "threw herſelf at the King's feet, and "pleaded with tears the merits and loy-"alty of her father, as an atonement for "thoſe errors into which honeſt though "miſtaken principles had ſeduced her

" huſband. Theſe ſupplications were
" the only inſtance of weakneſs (if
" tenderneſs can deſerve that name)
" ſhe betrayed; for, finding all applica-
" tions vain, ſhe collected courage,
" and not only fortified herſelf againſt
" the fatal blow, but endeavoured by
" her example to ſtrengthen the reſolu-
" tion of her unfortunate Lord. On
" the day of his execution they took
" leave of each other with compoſure
" and fortitude; Lord Ruſſel ſaying, as
" he turned to accompany the guards
" who led him to execution, after re-
" ceiving the laſt embrace of his exem-
" plary wife, *I am ready; the bitter-*
" *neſs of death is paſt.*"

This ſubject furniſhed matter for con-verſation till they reached St. Alban's Church in Wood-ſtreet, when Mr.

Richardſon ſaid, "This church reminds "me of an anecdote which I muſt re- "late to you; though I muſt firſt in- "form you it was originally founded in "the time of Athelſtan, about the year "924. The King then reſided near "this ſpot; a circumſtance which is ſup- "poſed to have given riſe to the name "of Adel-ſtreet, or King Adel-ſtreet, "as it is called in the old writings. "In this church," continued Mr. Ri- chardſon, "among others was thrown "the head of the unfortunate James the "Fifth of Scotland. His body had "been embalmed and preſerved at the "Monaſtery of Shene for a conſidera- "ble time, but after the Diſſolution it "was caſt away among ſome rubbiſh; "when ſome workmen wantonly cut off "the head, which was taken by a man

"named

" named Young, who was glazier to
" Queen Elizabeth, and preſerved by
" him for its ſweetneſs, which aroſe
" from the embalming materials. For
" ſome time he kept it at his houſe in
" Wood-ſtreet, but at length gave it to
" the ſexton to bury among other bones
" in the charnel-houſe."

As Mr. Richardſon concluded his account they reached home, and the diſcourſe neceſſarily ceaſed.

CHAP. V.

An Accident—The Old Lady of Hornsey-Wood.

MR. RICHARDSON having promised his son and daughter a ramble into the country the first leisure day, he caused them to be called at an early hour; when informing them that he was totally disengaged that morning, he desired they would fix upon the place they wished to visit. As to him, it was perfectly indifferent, provided the distance did not exceed six or seven miles.

Charles yielded the choice entirely to

his ſiſter, who after ſome ſhort reflection ſaid, "I have heard that Hornſey "is a very pleaſant place; ſuppoſe we "go there, Papa?"

"Willingly," anſwered Mr. Richardſon; "let us haſten breakfaſt, the coach "is already ordered, and I devote this "day entirely to you."

There was no neceſſity to enforce this requeſt, and by ten entering the carriage the party took the way to Hornſey. The day was ſo fine, that when they reached about a mile beyond Iſlington they all preferred walking, and, leaving the coach at an inn, proceeded cheerfully, beguiling the way by inſtructive diſcourſe. The ſituation and whole appearance of Hornſey-wood and the village delighted the young people; who having advanced into a pleaſant lane,

teſtified their ſatisfaction by a thouſand cheerful gambols, until Mary, by leaping over a buſh that lay in the road, ran a thorn into her foot. Though the pain was acute, ſhe endeavoured to conceal it, fearful of giving her friends uneaſineſs; and ſupported on one ſide by her father, and on the other by her brother, ſhe proceeded towards a little hut which Charles pointed out, ſaying, that doubtleſs there ſhe might remove the cauſe of her complaint. On reaching the cottage, Mr. Richardſon tapped gently; when the door was immediately opened by a woman in years, neatly clothed in mourning, and whoſe appearance was calculated to command reſpect even from perſons poſſeſſed of leſs natural politeneſs and affability than Mr. Richardſon; who moving his hat

ſaid,

ſaid, "Pardon this intruſion, Madam; "but my daughter has met with a little "accident, which we ſhould be much "obliged by being ſuffered to remedy "at your houſe."

The old Lady bowing replied, "You "are entirely welcome, Sir; pray walk "in, and, if I can aſſiſt, command me."

Mr. Richardſon then explained his daughter's misfortune; when the old Gentlewoman ſaid, "If the young Lady "will ſuffer me to examine her foot, I "perhaps may be able to eaſe her."

Mr. Richardſon thanked her, and with Charles drew aſide; when Mary pulling off her ſtocking, the old Lady, by the aid of her glaſſes, ſoon diſcovered the thorn, which ſhe drew out with great tenderneſs, afterwards laying a little ſalve on the place.

"My dear Madam," ſaid Mary, kiſſing her with the warmth that was natural to her, "you have made me quite well, "and my father and brother happy; for "this trifle cauſed them both to look "more ſerious than it deſerved."

Gratitude from children never fails to intereſt every one in their favour; and the old Lady, preſſing Mary in her arms, replied, "Bleſs you, my ſweet child! "and may Heaven grant that you may "grow up with thoſe ſentiments of gra- "titude and affection that Nature has "implanted, and the hand of careful in- "ſtruction apparently cultivated, in your "youthful mind! May the thorns of "life, which in your journey through "the world you muſt neceſſarily en- "counter, be as tranſient and as eaſily "removed as this!"

Mr.

Mr. Richardſon regarded the old Lady with aſtoniſhment; for, though her dreſs and the cottage exactly correſponded for neatneſs and cleanlineſs, yet both bore the marks of poverty; the firſt conſiſting only of a plain gown, with a white handkerchief and apron much mended, and on her head a muſlin cap and hood, from under which ſtrayed a few grey hairs that ſhaded her temples. The cottage conſiſted only of a ſmall room below, and apparently the ſame above; the lower apartment furniſhed with a few ruſh-bottomed chairs, a ſmall ſhelf of books, a cheſt of drawers, and a table, upon which, when Mr. Richardſon and his children entered, was a clean cloth ſpread, with a piece of a ſmall loaf, a ſlice of cheeſe, and a glaſs of water.

As the old Lady concluded ſpeaking to Mary, Charles drew near, ſaying, "Accept my thanks alſo, Madam, for "your goodneſs to my ſiſter; and though "I cannot envy her your good wiſhes, "I muſt entreat to ſhare them."

"You have them, my dear youth," replied ſhe: "'tis many years ſince my "eyes have contemplated ſuch amiable "children. Heaven grant that ye may "continue ſuch! then will ye indeed "be a bleſſing to your parents and all "who know you."

"To my children's thanks permit me "to add mine," ſaid Mr. Richardſon. "Mary's accident has formed an ac-"quaintance that I hope will not end "here. My young folks, if I can read "their countenances aright, would be

"pleaſed

"pleaſed with the permiſſion to inquire
"ſometimes after your health."

The old Lady bowed. "You make me
"feel," replied ſhe, "for the firſt time
"for many years, the inconvenience of
"poverty; but, as no diſgrace attends
"it, it cannot humiliate or depreſs me.
"Shame ſhould appertain to vice alone;
"and my cottage is too humble, and
"myſelf too aged, to admit a gueſt
"that like a torrent deſtroys all before
"it, levels palaces with the earth, and
"youth and ſtrength with the duſt."

As ſhe ſpoke, ſhe raiſed her eyes with pious reſignation, and a momentary ſilence enſued; after which ſhe added, "I do not think it entirely proper for "the young Lady to walk immediately, "as it may inflame her foot. You had "better, therefore, be ſeated for an

"hour

"or two, and take a biſcuit, for I have "nothing elſe to offer."

"I accept your propoſal with pleaſure "and thanks," anſwered Mr. Richardſon; "but you will add to the obliga-"tion by ſuffering me to act as an old "friend. My young people, I know, "from their walk, are hungry; and, if "you will permit, my ſon and myſelf "will leave Mary with you, while we "procure ſome proviſion at a houſe of "entertainment I remarked at a ſhort "diſtance."

"Act as you pleaſe, Sir," returned ſhe; "I have few worldly gratifications, "and therefore cannot eaſily reſiſt a "converſation for a few hours with your "amiable family."

Mr. Richardſon thanked her, and, with Charles, went in queſt of dinner, leaving

leaving Mary perfectly ſatisfied with the old Lady.

The open cheerfulneſs of Mary's temper made her at once acquainted, ſo that ſhe was ſpeedily as intimate with Mrs. Sidney (which was the old Lady's name) as if ſhe had known her a year. She accompanied her to the bed-room, walked round her ſmall garden, examined her ſhelf of books, nurſed her cat, aſſiſted her in her little arrangements, ſuch as ſweeping her hearth, and duſting her chairs and table, &c. &c. againſt her father and brother returned.

"My dear child," ſaid ſhe, "if you "move ſo much, it will entirely deſtroy "the intent of your ſtaying here, which "you know was, that your foot might "not be irritated by walking."

"Indeed, Madam, my foot is quite "well.

"well. Don't you ſee that I am not "at all lame?" anſwered ſhe, ſkipping. "As ſoon as you ſit down, ſo will I; "but I cannot be idle when you are "buſy; my Papa would ſay it was very "wrong if I were."

"Then muſt I ſit in order to induce "you to do the ſame;" ſaid Mrs. Sidney. "I wiſh I knew ſomething that "would entertain you, for the company "of an old woman is but dull at your "age."

"You ſay that becauſe I am a little in-"ſignificant girl," anſwered Mary. But "you look ſo mild and good-humour-"ed, that I cannot help loving you; ſo "then you know I cannot be dull. Let "me ſee; what can I do to amuſe you? "Shall I read to you?"

"Willingly,

"Willingly, my love, if it will not
"fatigue you."

"Thank you, my dear Madam; what
"book would you chooſe?"

"The Bible, my ſweet girl, if you
"pleaſe. This book," added ſhe, as
ſhe preſented it to Mary with a ſmile,
"poſſeſſes more than the power of magic
"could ever boaſt of; for many years
"it has been my only friend; it has
"ſoothed my ſorrows in poverty, com-
"forted me when I was ſick, and, by
"healing my mind, has made old age
"creep upon me without its concomi-
"tant attendants, pain and weakneſs.
"Time and the viciſſitudes of life may
"make you forget the old woman of
"Hornſey-wood; but never let it efface
"this truth from your memory, that the
"ſtudy of the holy Scriptures is a ſove-

"reign

"reign remedy for all diſeaſes both of "the mind and body. The firſt it ob-"literates, by raiſing our ſouls above "earthly objects; and the latter it en-"ables us to bear with a reſignation and "fortitude that Atheiſts wonder at, while "they pretend to contemn, and ſhudder "that they cannot imitate at the hour of "death."

Mary took the old Lady's hand in both hers. "I hope I ſhall ever re-"member you, Madam," anſwered ſhe: "I wiſh to act well, but, I know not "how it is, I am frequently not ſatis-"fied with myſelf."

Mary then related to Mrs. Sidney the loſs ſhe had ſuſtained of her watch among the Gipſies, ſeverely blaming her-ſelf for the inclination ſhe had felt to liſten to them; then taking up the Bible

ſhe

ſhe added, "I am ſuch a goſſip, that I "forgot I was to read to you; and if I "don't make haſte, my Papa will be "here before I have performed my "promiſe.'

Mary had read nearly a chapter when her father and brother returned, followed by a man carrying a baſket containing cold proviſions and all that was neceſſary to prevent giving Mrs. Sidney trouble.

Mutually pleaſed with each other, they took their places around the old Lady's table, with a ſatisfaction and complacency that do not always attend more ſumptuous entertainments. Dinner ended, Mrs. Sidney brought a baſket of apples, the produce of her little garden, and, converſing upon different ſubjects

jects with Mr. Richardſon, confirmed him in the opinion, that, though now under a thatched roof, ſhe had an underſtanding and talents capable of gracing the higheſt circles.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

A Purſuit after Happineſs; or, the Hiſtory of an Heireſs.

THE diſcourſe turning on literature, Mrs. Sidney's remarks were ſo accurate, conciſe, and judicious, that Mr. Richardſon, though with great delicacy, could not avoid remarking his aſtoniſhment at meeting with ſuch ſuperior talents in ſo ſequeſtered and humble a dwelling.

"My good Sir," anſwered the old Lady, "eight years or rather more I have "reſided in this cottage, ſequeſtered from

"the

" the world, and the purſuits that en-
" gaged the former period of my life.
" With a body weakened by infirmity,
" a mind deranged by misfortune, and a
" heart lacerated by ingratitude, I
" ſought refuge in this ſpot, where all I
" hoped was to conceal my poverty, and
" die far from thoſe who had witneſſed
" the ſcenes of my early grandeur.
" The viciſſitudes of my life have been
" many, and the recital of them may
" perhaps not be improper for my
" young friends to liſten to; therefore,
" if you are willing, I will readily re-
" late them."

Mr. Richardſon bowed, and would have declined the old Lady's offer, fearful leſt the repetition of ſorrows, though long paſt, ſhould revive unpleaſant remembrances. His motive was not loſt upon

upon Mrs. Sidney, who anſwered, "I "feel your kindneſs, Sir, but your care "is in vain: I have long ſince learned "to bow with reſignation to whatever "God ſhall appoint. My life has been "a purſuit after happineſs; and as I "have found it," added ſhe with a ſmile, "I will teach the ſecret to my "young friends."

Mr. Richardſon expreſſed his thanks; Charles's countenance beſpoke the utmoſt attention; and Mary, drawing her chair cloſe to Mrs. Sidney, fixed her eyes on her face; when the venerable old Lady began as follows:

"For forty years of my life I was in "purſuit of happineſs, which, like a "ſhadow, though it appeared conſtantly "within my graſp, ever fled on my ap-

"proach.

" proach. My father, whoſe name was
" Turville, was of a good family, and
" poſſeſſed an affluent fortune; but he
" died when I was ſo young that ſcarcely
" a trace even of his perſon remained
" on my memory. His property, which
" amounted to near ſixty thouſand
" pounds, he left equally between my
" mother and myſelf (his only child),
" and to her ſolely the care and guid-
" ance of my youth. After his death
" ſhe retired into the country; and, na-
" turally of a penſive diſpoſition, her
" only amuſement was reading; and a
" wiſh, perhaps, to baniſh unpleaſant
" thoughts, led her to the peruſal of
" books which, though they might ſome-
" times beguile an uneaſy hour, were
" undoubtedly unfit for me to be ſuf-
" fered to indulge in; which was fre-

" quently

"frequently the caſe. From reading
"theſe, as I grew up I formed falla-
"cious opinions of human nature; and
"too ignorant and unacquainted with
"life to draw a middle line, my inflated
"imagination preſented my fellow crea-
"tures as either perfect beings or mon-
"ſters of deformity. Romances had
"repreſented ſome characters as per-
"fectly happy; and reſolved to be ſo
"myſelf, I ſpared no pains to attain my
"purpoſe. In the country I conſidered
"the means of happineſs contracted, but
"yet, according to ſome models I had
"formed, purſued it. I clothed the
"children of the cottagers, frequently
"made them little preſents, and ſome-
"times condeſcended to invite them to
"a dinner on the lawn before our houſe.
"I cannot but ſay theſe objects gave

"me ſatisfaction, yet they did not an-
"ſwer to the exagerated idea I had con-
"ceived of happineſs. When I gave
"the children clothes or ſtuff for gowns,
"the make of their dreſſes frequently
"diſguſted me—for they were made for
"uſe, and not for ſhow—and as the lit-
"tle damſels did not look like ſhepherd-
"eſſes in fairy tales, I was diſſatisfied.
"Again, when I gave them money, in-
"ſtead of breaking out into thanks as
"elegantly as if they had been bred in a
"drawing-room, they perhaps only
"dropped me a ſhort bob, and ran
"away to ſhew their poor parents their
"treaſure. I, for want of knowledge,
"conſidered them as unfeeling and un-
"grateful, never reflecting that the
"graces of manner are only to be ac-
"quired in poliſhed converſation and
"company.

" company. At the feaſts I made for
" them, as there was ever plenty of roaſt
" beef and pudding, they would appear
" to me to eat voraciouſly, and, ſmear-
" ing their mouths with greaſe, diſguſt
" me; for I made no allowances for
" their want of education, or the rarity
" of ſuch a meal with them; weakly
" forgetting the advantages I had en-
" joyed, and that I was feaſted every
" day. All theſe enjoyments I was en-
" abled to indulge in; for my mother
" knew no gratification ſuperior to giv-
" ing me pleaſure.

" As improper feeding weakens the
" bodily health, ſo equally doth too un-
" limited indulgence breed ſatiety in the
" mind, which, ſick from repletion and
" idleneſs, rejects the good that pre-
" ſents, and in ideal projects loſes the

" reality. I had juſt attained my
" ſeventeenth year when I had the miſ-
" fortune to loſe my mother, who be-
" queathed me the whole of her pro-
" perty without reſtriction at the age of
" twenty-one; till which period the in-
" tereſt was entirely in my power. It
" was alſo my mother's deſire, that I
" ſhould reſide with my guardian till I
" was of age; and the funeral was no
" ſooner over, and my mind ſomewhat
" recovered from the firſt ſhock, than I
" was removed to London, where a new
" ſcene took place. Mrs. Sidney, my
" guardian's wife, was extremely gay,
" and the glare of dreſs and faſhion that
" I ſaw at her houſe did not fail of its
" effect upon my unſtable mind. At
" length, ſaid I mentally, I have found
" the way to happineſs. I was fooliſh

" to expect to meet with it among un-
" educated peaſants; I ſhall find it in
" the delights that ſurround me, and in
" the enjoyment of the ample fortune I
" inherit. Mrs. Sidney loved pleaſure
" too well herſelf to reſtrain me—and in
" a few months behold me at the height
" of faſhion, and univerſally admired!
" for my follies were ſhaded by the
" largeneſs of my fortune, and I had no
" friend bold or ſincere enough to re-
" preſent my errors to me in their pro-
" per light, or I think I was of a diſpo-
" ſition that would have yielded to
" reaſon and truth. The happineſs I
" ſought, however, ſtill fled before me;
" I was far more diſtant from my object
" than when in the country; happineſs
" was not at the aſſembly, the concert,
" the play, or the opera; and weary

" with dreſs and amuſement, I returned
" from all languid, weary and dejected.
" In this ſtate of mind my thoughts re-
" curred to the country, and I wiſhed
" for ſummer that I might return to
" thoſe enjoyments I had before ſlighted.
" At this period my guardian's ſon ar-
" rived in town from his travels. He
" was handſome, accompliſhed, and faſ-
" cinating in his manners, and I was too
" young to conſider that perſonal ad-
" vantages alone are a poor ſecurity
" for happineſs in the marriage ſtate.
" Let it therefore ſuffice to ſay, that
" with his friends' approbation, and my
" own, I became his wife; and once
" more concluded that I muſt find hap-
" pineſs in the ſociety of ſo amiable a
" man. Alas! I was diſappointed; the
" ſhadow again beguiled me; my huſ-

"band poſſeſſed neither religion, good "humour, nor humanity. Charmed "with his fine perſon, I had never con- "ſidered further, and ſoon felt that I "had united myſelf to a diſſipated "young man, whoſe days were ſpent in "ſleeping away the effects of the riots "in which he paſſed the nights. He "was alſo a gameſter, and his father had "taken no pains to ſecure my fortune "otherwiſe than by a ſettlement not a "tenth part adequate to it.

"I ſhall paſs over a number of years, "which, as they contained nothing but a "continued ſcene of unhappineſs ariſing "from the ſame cauſe, are beſt forgot- "ten. During this interval I became "the mother of two children, and again "the phantom happineſs fleeted before "my ſight. I fondly flattered myſelf

" that my children would repay all my
" former diſappointments, and with un-
" wearied aſſiduity watched their in-
" fancy. My eldeſt was a ſon, whom it
" pleaſed heaven to take in his fourth
" year; my youngeſt a daughter, for
" whoſe happineſs I would willingly
" have ſacrificed my life. The fault
" which many parents commit who have
" an only child, both Mr. Sidney and
" myſelf were guilty of to the utmoſt
" extent. From her earlieſt youth ſhe
" had no wiſh ungratified; and by that
" means taught to conſider herſelf the
" firſt object, as ſhe grew up ſhe became
" turbulent, vindictive, and overbear-
" ing. I diſcovered my error when it
" was too late to be rectified; for the
" faults I had nouriſhed by indulgence
" had taken ſuch deep root, that it was

" beyond

" bond my power to eradicate or even
" to palliate them. Thus was I again
" beguiled of my promiſed happineſs:
" a diſappointment which, added to the
" vexations I had daily to ſtruggle with
" from Mr. Sidney, preyed upon my
" health and ſpirits, until at length my
" mind gave way, and I had to labour
" under a degree of mental derange-
" ment.

" In this humiliating and moſt piti-
" able of all human afflictions, I was no
" inmate for a houſe like that of Mr.
" Sidney's, and was therefore removed,
" and boarded with a medical gentle-
" man in the country, to whoſe un-
" wearied care I, through God's aſſiſt-
" ance, owe my cure. I was ſix years
" in this deplorable ſtate, and, when I re-
" covered my reaſon, found that a mate-

" rial alteration had taken place in my
" family. My daughter was married to
" a man of conſiderable property, and
" had accompanied him to a govern-
" ment in the Eaſt Indies. Mr. Sidney,
" from the wreck of his diſſipated pro-
" perty, had raiſed her a fortune of
" twelve thouſand pounds, and, inſtead
" of contracting his expences, was a yet
" more infatuated gameſter than ever.

" Thus ſituated were my family con-
" cerns when I regained my health. In
" vain I expoſtulated, and entreated
" Mr. Sidney to let us retire into the
" country. I was either treated with
" diſregard or contempt. To complete
" my vexation, in anſwer to a letter re-
" plete with maternal tenderneſs, which
" I wrote to my daughter, I received
" one ſo cold, complimentary, and diſ-
" guſting,

"guſting, that it redoubled the acute-
"neſs of my ſufferings.

"During this interval Mr. Sidney's
"affairs became daily more deranged,
"and he at length propoſed, and I was
"weak enough to conſent to, the ſale of
"the ſettlement made upon me at mar-
"riage. The hands of a gameſter are
"like a devouring fire; they conſume
"and deſtroy all within their reach.
"Thus was it with Mr. Sidney. Gam-
"ing was to him a mania, which he had
"not ſtrength of mind to conquer, or
"even to reſiſt. This ſum, which
"was the laſt we had to truſt to, was
"laviſhed like the former; and in an
"evil hour, I tremble while I relate
"it, forſaken of God, the unhappy
"man terminated a life of ſin by
"ſuicide."

The old Lady for a moment was unable to continue; when Mr. Richardſon ſaid, "My dear Madam, as with your "leave we frequently ſhall intrude, will "you favour us by continuing your "ſtory no further this afternoon? "When we meet again we will thank "you for the concluſion, which I truſt "we ſhall find more happy than the "commencement."

"With your permiſſion I will conti-"nue it now," anſwered Mrs. Sidney. "Time has in a great meaſure blunted "the acuteneſs of my feelings; and if "what I relate tend but to impreſs one "ſalutary caution on the minds of my "young auditors, I ſhall be amply re-"paid. From my ſtory they may learn, "that idleneſs alone and a deficiency of "knowledge gave riſe to my firſt diſcon-

"tents.

" tents. The mind, from a want of
" proper employment, becomes ſickly
" and enfeebled, until all praiſe-worthy
" energy and enjoyment of real good is
" loſt. In the early part of my life,
" had I not by my follies thrown happi-
" neſs from me, I was undoubtedly as
" happy as in this mortal ſtate it is poſ-
" ſible to be. I was bleſſed with a good
" mother, and a fortune which enabled
" me to make hundreds happy. I had
" it in my power to comfort the ſick, to
" feed the hungry, and to clothe the naked.
" Yet, ſtrange perverſion of bleſſings!
" nothing ſatisfied me; my exaggerated
" ideas ſought beings out of nature, and
" were therefore not to be ſatisfied.
" At my mother's death had I poſſeſſed
" a prudent friend, how much ſorrow
" might I have eſcaped! Alas! I was not

" ſo

" ſo fortunate, and I launched into the
" world vainly ſeeking happineſs where
" it was never yet found—in a vortex of
" folly and the buſtle of diſſipation!
" My marriage completed my misfor-
" tune. Too giddy to conſider conſe-
" quences, I married a young man
" whoſe only recommendations were a
" fine perſon and captivating addreſs,
" never reflecting that a few years would
" bereave him of the firſt, and that faſci-
" nating manners frequently diſappear
" when people reſide conſtantly toge-
" ther; while, on the contrary, the
" charms of rectitude and good humour
" embelliſh every object that poſſeſſes
" them. A man may be the firſt at the
" ball for grace and agility; his voice
" may be the moſt harmonious at the
" concert; his taſte in dreſs, as well as

" the

" the elegance of his perſon, may diſ-
" tinguiſh him from his companions,
" and his ſallies of wit and humour make
" his company univerſally ſought in all
" convivial parties; yet he may be a
" tyrant in his domeſtic circle, he may
" plunge his wife in ruin, and his chil-
" dren in miſery. . . . . My dear young
" friends," continued Mrs. Sidney,
" obſerve this truth, and impreſs it on
" your memory: Form no predilection
" merely from external appearances; a
" long acquaintance only can enable
" you to judge of the merits of any
" one; for frequently under the roſes
" of pleaſure and gaiety lurks the hid-
" den ſerpent that will, if truſted, ſting
" you to death.

" I have but one more ſhort obſerva-
" tion to make, and will then conclude

" my

" my ſtory. Bred myſelf in error, in " the education of my daughter it ſtill " preſided. To have made her and " myſelf happy, in early youth I ſhould " have corrected her vices. I ſhould " have curbed every propenſity to evil, " and taught her that ſubordination " which all young people owe to their " friends and elders; inſtead of which, " finding every one ready to obey her " commands, however ridiculous, ſhe " learned to believe herſelf ſuperior to " controul, and above being reſtrained " by parental duty."

Mrs. Sidney's obſervation concluded, ſhe was preparing to reſume her narrative, when a knock at the cottage-door prevented her. On its being opened by Charles, the waiter from the inn entered, bringing coffee, as Mr. Richard-

ſon had ordered. On the departure of the man, Mrs. Sidney addreſſing Mr. Richardſon ſaid, "My good Sir, though "I am hurt at the trouble you have "taken, I will not apologize for it, as "I conſider this to me a day of jubi-"lee."

Mr. Richardſon anſwered the old Lady's compliment, and, coffee being over, ſhe reſumed her hiſtory.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Conclusion of the History of an Heiress.

"AFTER Mr. Sidney's death, a multitude of creditors poured in: my house, furniture, and jewels were sold, and barely sufficed to pay the various demands upon me. In the excess of my sorrow I had written to my daughter; but, either divested of feeling, or so puffed up with the pomp of eastern grandeur that she had forgotten all filial duty, her answer bespoke neither real grief nor

"sen-

" ſenſibility. She indeed expreſſed ſor-
" row for her father's death, but it ap-
" peared rather to ariſe from the diſgrace
" attending his imprudent action, than
" in any particular feeling for himſelf.
" She hoped, as ſhe ſaid in her letter,
" that the unhappy event had been as
" carefully concealed as poſſible; and
" concluded by deſiring me to call upon
" a merchant in the city, who had an
" order to pay me the ſum of five hun-
" dred pounds, with which ſhe had no
" doubt I ſhould be able to ſettle myſelf
" conveniently, as ſhe could not trouble
" her huſband again on the ſubject.

" Humiliating as it muſt be to a pa-
" rent to accept a ſum ſo ungracioufly
" preſented, I was neceſſitated to ſub-
" mit; but a ſpark of pride I ſtill poſ-
" ſeſſed urged me to take a ſtep, which,

" if

" if her feelings are not entirely dead,
" will, I think, awaken them when I am
" no more. This was a determination to
" place the money in the Bank, and ſub-
" ſiſt upon the intereſt; by which means
" the ſum would be left entire at my
" deceaſe. In conſequence of this ar-
" rangement, I wrote back an anſwer,
" in which, as my paſſions were not at
" that period ſo much ſubdued as at the
" preſent, too much acrimony might
" perhaps ſhew itſelf; for, at the return
" of the India ſhips, I received a letter
" from my ſon-in-law ſo replete with
" bitterneſs, avarice, and unfeeling cru-
" elty, that, had I not before been deter-
" mined, this would have confirmed me
" in the opinion, that it was better to
" brave every evil, rather than incur any
" more obligations to him. Difficult as

" it

" it was to ſupport this reſolution, I per-
" ſevered. I ſold my clothes to pay a
" few ſmall debts I had contracted;
" and, as I originally intended, placed
" the five hundred pounds in the Bank.
" It produces me twenty pounds a year;
" with which ſlender pittance I have
" been more happy in this poor cottage,
" than when I was ſurrounded with af-
" fluence, and in the poſſeſſion of thou-
" ſands.

" My firſt care was to ſeek a dwelling
" ſuited to my fortune: this preſented,
" and was my choice. For ſome months
" the ſolitude, and different mode of
" life to what I had been accuſtomed,
" appeared wearisome to me: but by
" degrees all diſguſt vaniſhed; for, my
" days employed in my little domeſtic
" arrangements, and my evenings and

" ſpare

" ſpare hours devoted to the ſtudy of
" the ſacred duties I had before neglect-
" ed, have, as it were, conſpired to ſteal
" me from myſelf, and to give me, what
" I had ſo long in vain ſought after,
" content, and as great a ſhare of happi-
" neſs as is to be expected in this mortal
" ſtate.

" Once or twice a year, or ſometimes
" more frequently, I uſed to inquire after
" my daughter and her family at the mer-
" chant's to whom ſhe remitted the
" money. But it has pleaſed God to
" deprive me of that ſatisfaction; for,
" in ſpite of their indifference, my heart
" glowed to hear of their welfare. The
" merchant has been dead more than
" three years, and my only means of
" intelligence has ſince been to inquire
" of the Captains of India ſhips; from

" one

" one of whom I learned about
" two years ago, that my ſon-in-law
" had left India a conſiderable time
" before, on the acquiſition of an eſtate
" that had fallen to him, ſince which
" period I have never received any in-
" telligence reſpecting his family.

" Behold me then abandoned by her
" for whom I would have ſacrificed my
" life; by her on whom my weak heart
" fondly depended for the comfort of
" my declining age! Yet God has en-
" abled me to bear it with reſignation
" and fortitude. Eight years have I
" been in this dwelling, and only three
" unfeeling epiſtles have reached me,
" and thoſe by the hand of the before-
" mentioned merchant. My laſt letters to
" India have been returned, and where
" my poor ungrateful girl is now ſituated

" I know

"know not. But wherever it is, may "God direct her heart to peace and "wisdom! May her children (for she "had two when she left India) be dutiful "and affectionate! Then will she "never experience the pangs she has "made me suffer."

Mrs. Sidney concluded, and a short silence ensued, which was broken by Mary's saying, "You are very good "to wish your daughter so well, Madam; "but if even you are angry with me, I "cannot help thinking that it is more "than she deserves. I hope I shall "never see her; for I am certain I "could not endure any one who had "behaved so unfeelingly to you."

"My dear young friend," answered Mrs. Sidney, smiling at Mary's warmth, "were

"we

"we to converſe a little on the ſubject, "I think you would change your opi- "nion; for example, were my daughter "to return to her duty, which early in- "dulgence, pride, and avarice, have "aſſiſted to baniſh from her heart, I "am convinced that you would rejoice "at the change. Weak minds, my "dear child, are eaſily carried away "by appearances. She felt only the "diſgrace of owning a woman in my "reduced circumſtances as a parent; "while at the ſame time her avarice "withheld her from placing me in a "ſituation of reſpectability. Let us "therefore think of her with pity, and "ſhould it pleaſe heaven to root out "thoſe rank weeds from her heart, we "will endeavour to forget the paſt."

As Mary could not entirely coincide

with Mrs. Sidney, she remained silent. Mrs. Richardson returned his thanks for the favour she had done them, and, at Charles's intercession, entreated leave to call and inquire after her health in the course of a few days: a request she readily granted; and the evening beginning to draw in, they soon after wished the old Lady a good night.

This adventure furnished them with conversation the whole of the way home: Mrs. Richardson pleased with the piety and whole demeanour of Mrs. Sidney; and the young people delighted with the excursion, and eager to renew their visit as speedily as possible.

CHAP. VIII.

Bancroft's Alms-houſes—Anecdote of their Founder—Bow Bridge built by King Alfred—Source of the River Lea—Alfred reproved by the Neat-herd's Wife for his Neglect in ſuffering the Cakes to burn—Character of Alfred—His Wiſdom, Love of Learning, Diſpoſal of Time, &c. &c.—A Roman Station at Laytonſtone—The Minories named from a Convent of poor Ladies.

THE morning being fine, Mr. Richardſon gratified his young people by giving them an airing. Leaving the

city, and paſſing through Mile-end, Bancroft's beautiful alms-houſes attracted their attention; when Charles obſerving that they would be a laſting memorial to tranſmit the founder's name to poſterity with honour, Mr. Richardſon anſwered, "Indeed, Charles, I fear not. "Francis Bancroft, the man who be- "queathed 28,000 pounds towards this "building, was ſo unworthy a member "of ſociety, that even his charity can- "not make his errors forgotten. He "was one of the Lord Mayor's Offi- "cers; and by every ſpecies of mean- "neſs, ſuch as informations, ſummoning "the citizens for every trifling offence, "uſury, and other deſpicable acts, he "not only pillaged the poor, but alſo "many of the rich, and acquired an af- "fluent fortune. The hour of death,

"which

" which uſually repreſents our paſt
" vices in their proper light, had its
" uſual effect upon this poor wretch,
" who, eager to make ſome atonement
" for a life ſpent in the violation of
" every moral duty, left his immenſe
" property towards a public charity;
" perhaps hoping by thoſe means to re-
" medy ſome of the miſeries he had aſ-
" ſiſted to create. To complete the ac-
" count, I muſt inform you, that by his
" own requeſt his body lies in the
" church of Great St. Helen's, depoſited
" upon the pavement, and incloſed
" within a rail. His coffin has a lock,
" and a key which is placed in the in-
" ſide; for he had the folly to predict
" his reſurrection thirty years after, and
" ſo firmly believed the infatuation, that
" he cauſed his coffin to be thus con-

"ſtructed, that at the appointed time he "might let himſelf out."

"He was a ſingular character, indeed, "Sir," anſwered Charles, "and is one "of the inſtances of which you have "frequently told us, that good often "ariſes out of evil."

"Your obſervation is juſt," anſwered Mr. Richardſon: "the moſt proper "atonement was indeed made, and we "will charitably hope was accepted. "For his burial, inſanity alone, I ſhould "ſuppoſe, could dictate ſo ridiculous a "requeſt, in which caſe it is entirely "pardonable."

This converſation continued till they reached Bow, which Mr. Richardſon informed them was named from the ſtone arches of its bridge, ſaid to be built over the river Lea by order of Maud, wife of

Henry the First; "though," continued he, "some historians, and not improbably, affirm, that it was first built by "Alfred, whose arms are carved upon "the centre stone. They also consider it "as the first stone bridge built in England. The church belonging to this "village is very ancient, and was built "in the reign of Henry the Second."

"The river Lea, as I recollect," said Charles, "separates the counties of "Middlesex and Essex."

"It does," answered Mr. Richardson: "it is also the principal river of "Hertfordshire, and rises out of Lea-"grave Marsh in Bedfordshire; from "whence flowing in an oblique direc-"tion to the eastern side of the county, "it washes the towns of Hertford and

" Ware, from the laſt of which it is na-
" vigable to the Thames."

" My dear Papa," ſaid Mary, " your
" mentioning King Alfred reminds me of
" an anecdote which I read of him this
" day, that made me ſmile."

" Will you favour us with it, my
" love?"

" Certainly; though I have no doubt
" but that both you and Charles already
" know it. Alfred being defeated by
" the Danes, who invaded his kingdom,
" was obliged to relinquiſh the enſigns
" of his dignity, and in the meaneſt diſ-
" guiſes to elude the purſuit of his ene-
" mies. He was concealed by a neat-
" herd who had formerly been intruſted
" with the care of his cows, and by him
" paſſed for a ſervant which he had hired
" to aſſiſt him. In this ſituation an in-

" cident

" cident happened which has been pre-
" ſerved by popular tradition.
" The wife of the neat-herd, who was
" not intruſted with the ſecret, obſerv-
" ing Alfred one day ſeated by the fire-
" ſide buſy in trimming his arrows, de-
" ſired him to take care of ſome cakes
" that were toaſting, while ſhe was em-
" ployed in other domeſtic concerns.
" But Alfred, whoſe thoughts were un-
" doubtedly more upon his kingdom
" than upon the cakes, neglected his
" truſt; and the good woman, on her
" return, finding the cakes burnt, rated
" the king ſeverely, ſaying, that ſince he
" liked ſo well to eat of them, he ought
" not to have been ſo negligent as to
" have ſuffered them to be ſpoiled."

" I am charmed with the character of
" Alfred, as hiſtorians have handed it

"down to us," said Mr. Richardson, "and think we are much obliged to "Mary for bringing forward the conversation."

"He justly deserved the name of *Great*," answered Charles; "for, how "wise were all his decrees when he regained his power! The historian "Hume observes, that robbers appeared "extinguished; and though he is said to "have hung up, by way of bravado, "golden bracelets near the highways, "no man dared to touch them."

"His love of learning equally de"serves notice," said Mr. Richardson. "He invited into his kingdom the most "celebrated scholars from all parts of "Europe; he established schools, and "founded, or at least repaired, the uni"versity of Oxford. But the most

"effectual expedient was the noble ex-
"ample he himself gave. His time he
"divided into three equal portions:
"one was employed in exercise, refresh-
"ment, and sleep; another in the dis-
"patch of business; and a third in study
"and devotion. To measure the hours,
"he made use of tapers of equal length;
"for dials and clocks were then un-
"known. He conveyed his morality
"by fables and parables; he translated
"the Fables of Æsop, the Histories of
"Orosius and Beda, and Boethius on
"the Consolations of Philosophy; thus
"leading the way to his people in the
"pursuit of literature.

"Equally to the love of learning, he
"endeavoured to promote the useful
"arts, and encourage manufactures.
"He prompted men of genius and acti-

"vity to engage in commerce and na-
"vigation; he appropriated a ſeventh
"of his revenue to reſtore the ruined
"cities and caſtles, the palaces and
"monaſteries. To complete his eulo-
"gium in few words, not only his ſub-
"jects, but foreigners, regarded him as
"the greateſt prince, after Charle-
"magne, who had ariſen in Europe
"during ſeveral ages."

"My dear father," ſaid Mary warmly,
"now I begin to read hiſtory with at-
"tention, I am convinced I ſhall be
"delighted with it."

"I was well aware it muſt be ſo," re-
plied Mr. Richardſon; "of what a fund
"of amuſement do people deprive them-
"ſelves, who neglect to improve their
"underſtanding!—In the reign of Al-
"fred, London, or, to uſe the Saxon
"name,

"name, *Lundenburg*, was made by him "the capital of all England. In con- "sequence of a vow he had made, he "sent Sighelm, bishop of Sherbourne, "first to Rome, and then to India with "alms to the Christians at St. Thomas, "now called *Meliapour*, and who re- "turned with various rich gems which "were shown in the church of Sher- "bourne. Nor must I omit to tell "you, that he was the first who from "this island had any commerce with "that distant country."

This conversation had carried them farther than Mr. Richardson intended, for, on looking out, he found they had reached the entrance of Laytonstone: he therefore ordered the coachman to turn back.

"My

"My dear father," said Mary, "is "there any thing worth particular "notice in this village?"

"Here are, I believe," answered he, "some remains of a Roman station; "for several foundations, with Roman "bricks and coins, have been dug up "near the manor-house; as also, in "the church-yard and other parts of "the parish, some urns containing "ashes."

Conversing cheerfully, they reached town; when Mary, who usually remarked all the names of the streets as she went along, said to her father, "There is the Minories: I wonder "how that street acquired its name."

"I am ever happy, Mary, to satisfy "your laudable curiosity. It is named "from

" from certain poor Ladies of the order
" of St. Clare, or Minoreſſes, who had
" been invited into England by Blanch,
" queen of Navarre, wife to Edmund
" Earl of Lancaſter, who founded here,
" in 1293, a convent for their recep-
" tion. On the ſuppreſſion, it fell
" into the gift of the crown, and was
" afterwards converted into a dwelling-
" houſe. This part of the city, even
" in Queen Elizabeth's days, if we
" except here and there a houſe, was
" fields or farms let to different te-
" nants."

" My dear father," ſaid Charles,
" will you be good enough, in ſome
" of our rambles, to aſſiſt us in tracing
" out the ſituation of the old walls of
" the city of London?"

" Willingly.

Willingly. This morning it is too late; our first leisure day shall be devoted to that purpose.

CHAP. IX.

Strangers—The Horrors of Impriſonment—The Old Man's Story—Account of the Charter-houſe—Originally a Priory of Carthuſian Monks—Suppreſſed, and afterwards purchaſed by the Duke of Norfolk, and finally by Thomas Sutton, Eſq. who converted it into an Hoſpital.

ON Mr. Richardſon's return home, his attention as well as that of his children was attracted towards two perſons, who, the ſervant informed them, had entreated permiſſion to wait their return.

One

One was an old man whoſe hair was ſilvered with age, and whoſe palſied limbs proclaimed his near approach to the helpleſſneſs of a ſecond childhood. The ſecond, a young woman, who ſupported him with a tenderneſs that could not fail to render the picture intereſting to every ſuſceptible heart. Mr. Richardſon immediately ordered them to be ſhown into the parlour; when, the ſervant being withdrawn, he requeſted them to inform him in what he could be of ſervice to them.

The old man ſtruggled to ſpeak, but a paſſion of tears for ſome moments ſtopped his utterance; at length he exclaimed, "The bleſſing of a diſtreſſed "old man hang over ye! May as "many years paſs over you as have "over me; with this only difference,

"that

"that not one cloud may overſhadow "your happineſs! for by your means I "ſhall not go down ſorrowing to the "grave; for you have redeemed me, "and in conſequence my poor child, "from that living grave a priſon; and "never ſhall my eyes cloſe without im-"ploring Heaven in your behalf."

"If I do not miſtake," replied Mr. Richardſon, "you are the perſon whom "my ſon has aſſiſted in relieving. If "any thanks are due, they are to him."

The young woman was ſilent, but would have thrown herſelf at Charles's feet, had he not prevented her by ſaying, "My dear father, at your requeſt theſe "good people will endeavour to calm "their emotion; ſpeak, therefore, if "you pleaſe, to them; I am unequal "to the taſk."

"You

"You will oblige us," anſwered Mr. Richardſon, "by ſuppreſſing thoſe feel-
"ings which a reſtoration to liberty, I
"can eaſily ſurmiſe, muſt give riſe to.
"Recollect yourſelves, and if I can
"render you any ſervice, ſpeak freely.
"—How were you ſituated before
"your impriſonment? and for what was
"the debt incurred?"

"Ah, Sir," anſwered the old man, "pardon me if I ſay that no one but thoſe
"who have been deprived of that moſt
"precious of all bleſſings, liberty, can
"form a juſt eſtimate of the tranſports
"that riſe in the boſom of the man,
"who again finds himſelf free to gaze
"on the great expanſe of earth and
"ſky, and admire the works of his
"Creator. But yeſterday confined
"within high walls, over which the
"ſun

"ſun but ſeldom darts his cheering
"beams, and breathing air impregnated
"with the noxious vapours that ariſe
"from cloſe confinement, ſqualid po-
"verty, and diſtreſs.—To-day, by your
"goodneſs, free to walk abroad! It
"ſeems as if you had given me a new
"exiſtence; and not only to me, but
"this poor girl, who is a thouſand times
"dearer to me than myſelf."

"Is the young woman your daugh-
"ter?" ſaid Mr. Richardſon.

"No, Sir, my dutiful grand-child—
"all the wealth that various misfortunes
"have left me—the daughter of an af-
"fectionate and only ſon long ſince
"dead.—For many years I was in the
"linen trade, and when my ſon grew
"up he became my partner. We were
"both widowers; my wife had been

"long

"long dead, and this girl's mother ſur-
"vived her birth but a ſhort time. In
"an evil hour my ſon became ſecurity
"to a large amount for a Scotch mer-
"chant with whom we dealt; and the
"event was, that his failure involved
"us in his ruin. We however made a
"ſhift to pay every one a juſt divi-
"dend; and as I was ſtill ſtrong and
"healthy, a tradeſman I was acquainted
"with employed me as a rider to take
"his country orders. My ſon, who re-
"garded himſelf as the author of this
"misfortune, in ſpite of all I could urge
"gave way to the deepeſt melancholy,
"became incapable of the leaſt exer-
"tion, and at length died. Severely as
"I felt this misfortune, I ſtruggled to
"overcome it for my poor Suſan's ſake,
"whom I put to ſchool and gave the beſt

"education

"education to my contracted finances
"would allow. Fearful of leaving her
"deſtitute, at fourteen I cauſed her to
"be taught the mantua-making buſi-
"neſs; but, alas! before ſhe was out of
"her apprenticeſhip the infirmities of
"old age came ſo rapidly upon me, that
"I was no longer able to continue my
"buſineſs; and though I ſtill made
"ſhift to work in a warehouſe, my ſti-
"pend was ſo ſmall that it ſcarcely ſuf-
"ficed to ſupport nature. At the age
"of nineteen, the period for which
"Sufan had been articled expired, and
"now with unwearied diligence ſhe ex-
"erted herſelf in her buſineſs, and was
"ſo far ſucceſsful, that the fear of leav-
"ing me unprovided for daily de-
"creaſed. This happineſs had laſted
"near a year, when I was attacked with

"ſo

"so severe a rheumatism, that I became "helpless, and by that means totally "prevented her from her customary "exertions; and so long did I continue "in this state, that it reduced us to the "most deplorable state of poverty. We "owed half a year's rent, our landlord "was pressing, and threatened to trou-"ble me; for, as he expressed it, if I "died he should be cheated out of the "money. In consequence he sued me, "and by law expences soon doubled the "debt, and threw me into a prison. I "was so helpless that my poor Susan ob-"tained leave to attend me. Twelve "months have I been in confinement, "my only support the labour of my "grand-daughter; and there must I "have perished but for your goodness "in relieving me."

"Have

"Have you as yet thought of any "future plan to ſave you from falling "into ſimilar misfortunes?" aſked Mr. Richardſon.

"I will willingly work to ſupport my "grandfather, Sir," anſwered Suſan: "I hope, now he is at liberty, and bet-"ter in his health, I ſhall be able to pro-"cure him a maintenance."

"No, my good girl," replied the old man, "I will no longer be a clog upon "thee; ſome poor-houſe will receive "me; I ſhall there have food ſufficient "to ſupport life, and walk if I am able "in the freſh air: after leaving a priſon, "I cannot think ſuch a retreat a hard-"ſhip."

Suſan appeared diſtreſſed. "No, my "dear father," ſaid ſhe, "it muſt not

" be; we have not encountered ſo many " misfortunes together to part now."

Mr. Richardſon pauſed a moment. " Though I commend your duty," ſaid he to Suſan, " yet there are doubtleſs " ſome charities where your grandfather " would be more comfortably ſituated " than your labour could make him; " where you could ſee him weekly, nay " daily, if there were a neceſſity for it. " The Charter-houſe for example—"

" Ah, Sir," anſwered Suſan interrupting him, " could he be placed in " ſuch an aſylum as that, I ſhould in- " deed be the moſt happy girl in the " world; but it is not for poor friendleſs " creatures like us to expect ſuch " fortune."

" If you will oblige me with your " name,

" name, and a reference to any perſon of " reſpectability who will vouch for your " probity, I will exert my intereſt in " ſome way to ſerve you."

The old man inſtantly replied, that his name was Godfrey, and mentioned ſeveral citizens of repute who had known him in his more fortunate days.

" I will not then detain you longer " at this time," ſaid Mr. Richardſon; " your grand-daughter will oblige me " by calling in a few days, when I ſhall " have conſidered on the buſineſs. In " the mean time accept this trifle for " preſent exigencies; I ſhall be happy " to render you more eſſential ſervice."

The gratitude of old Godfrey was too great to ſuffer him to be eloquent; but tears ſerved for words, and with hearts truly ſenſible of their benefac-

benefactor's goodneſs, and pockets two guineas richer than they entered the parlour, the liberated priſoner and Suſan left the houſe.

Charles withdrew to the window; when Mr. Richardſon, addreſſing Mary, ſaid, "Well, my love, what think you of "theſe poor people? I have obſerved "that you have been uncommonly at-"tentive."

"My dear father," anſwered ſhe, "I "have been contraſting in my mind the "difference between the conduct of Mrs. "Sidney's daughter and this poor old "man's grandchild."

"I think it is eaſily accounted for," replied Mr. Richardſon, "ſetting aſide "that in all probability they poſſeſs very "different diſpoſitions. The firſt was "accuſtomed to command, the ſecond to

"obey.

" obey. Miſs Sidney, from falſe indul-
" gence, conſidered herſelf as one of the
" firſt objects in nature, had experien-
" ced no difficulties, nor ſuffered any
" controul; ſhe therefore ſhrunk from
" the touch of calamity as from an in-
" fectious diſeaſe; and ſo that the per-
" ſon ſhe had been taught to conſider
" moſt (herſelf) was ſafe, ſhe cared
" little for any one elſe. Poor Suſan,
" on the contrary, appears to have been
" accuſtomed to ſorrow from her child-
" hood. She never knew a mother's
" tenderneſs; her father's misfortunes
" early affected her; and, accuſtomed
" to look up to her grandfather as her
" only friend, ſhe learned to appreciate
" his worth. Taught to depend upon
" herſelf, ſhe felt ſhe was not born to
" paſs through life without difficulties,

" and by bearing her own ſhe has
" learned to feel for others."

" I know, my dear father, you mean
" to do ſomething to aſſiſt them; pray
" what is the Charter-houſe?"

" I will willingly give you all the ac-
" count I can recollect. On the
" ſpot where the Charter-houſe now
" ſtands was originally a houſe of Car-
" thuſians (from which the name is cor-
" rupted), founded by Sir Walter de
" Manni, a ſucceſsful commander in
" the French wars under Edward the
" Third. He purchaſed in the year
" 1349 a piece of ground, conſiſting of
" thirteen acres, for the purpoſe of in-
" terring the dead, at a time in which a
" dreadful peſtilence raged. Not fewer
" than fifty thouſand people were buried
" in it during the time of this dreadful
" calamity;

" calamity; which may ſhow you how
" very populous London was at that
" period. In the preceding year Ralph
" Stratford, biſhop of London, bought
" a piece of land adjoining to this, which
" he incloſed with a brick wall, built on
" it a chapel, and applied it to the ſame
" uſe under the name of Pardon Church-
" yard. Here alſo were buried ſuicides,
" and ſuch as had been executed.
" They were brought in what was called
" the friars' cart, which was tilted and
" covered over with black: in it alſo
" was a pendent bell, ſo that notice was
" given as it paſſed along of the ſad bur-
" then it was conveying.

" Sir Walter's firſt deſign was to have
" founded a college for a warden, dean,
" and twelve ſecular prieſts; but chang-
" ing his intention, he, in conjunction

" with Northburgh biſhop of London,
" founded a priory for twenty-four
" monks, of the rigid order of Carthu-
" ſians, which was completed in 1370.
" The laſt prior but one, John Hough-
" ton, ſubſcribed to the King's ſupre-
" macy in 1534, yet was ſome time after
" put to death for his oppoſition to the
" royal will. Three years after there
" was a ſecond ſubſcription, in which
" William Trafford the laſt prior, and
" two-and-twenty of his monks, ſub-
" ſcribed to the King's ſupremacy. At
" the diſſolution of monaſteries the re-
" venues of this were reckoned to amount
" to ſix hundred and forty-two pounds a
" year. It was firſt granted in 1542 to
" two perſons for their joint lives, and
" in the year 1555 to Sir Edward
" North, who ſold it to the Duke of
" Norfolk,

" Norfolk, and from that family it was
" alienated to Thomas Sutton, Eſq.

" In the time of James the Firſt,
" Sutton converted it into a magnificent
" hoſpital, conſiſting of a maſter, a
" preacher, two ſchool-maſters, forty-
" four boys, and eighty decayed gentle-
" men who had been ſoldiers or mer-
" chants. Each reduced gentleman has
" fourteen pounds a year, a gown, meat,
" fire and lodging, and one of them
" may, if he chooſes, attend the manci-
" ple to market to ſee that he ſupplies
" good proviſions.

" There are ſcarcely any remains
" of the conventual building, which is
" ſaid to have ſtood in the preſent gar-
" den. The extenſive dwelling-houſe
" now uſed was built by the Duke of
" Norfolk, whoſe arms are in the great

" hall, with the date 1571—the year of " the Duke's final impriſonment."

" For what was he impriſoned, Papa?" ſaid Mary.

" For aſpiring to a marriage with " Mary Queen of Scots; a deſign that " at length coſt him his life. His grand- " ſon Lord Thomas Howard was in " poſſeſſion of this houſe at the acceſ- " ſion of James the Firſt. This mo- " narch, to ſhew his reſpect for a family " who had ſo ſeverely ſuffered in the " cauſe of his mother, made his firſt " viſit to this nobleman on entering his " new capital, on the 7th of May 1604. " His Majeſty and his ſuite were ſplen- " didly entertained during four whole " days, and before his departure he " dubbed not fewer than fourſcore " knights.

" You

"You are now, Mary," continued Mr. Richardſon, "in poſſeſſion of all the "information I can give you reſpecting "the Charter-houſe. It is an excel-"lent charity; and if we can be ſuc-"ceſsful enough to place Godfrey there, "it will be a comfortable aſylum for his "old age."

The ſervant at that moment informing them that dinner was upon the table, the converſation neceſſarily ceaſed.

CHAP. X.

A Viſitor — Clocks, Dials, and Watches, when firſt invented — An Oſtentation of Learning contemptible — Hiſtorical Anecdote of Margaret of Anjou and Prince Edward with the Robber.

THE dinner had been but a ſhort time removed, when the Magiſtrate and his Lady from Richmond were announced. They were accompanied by little Betſey, who was ſo greatly delighted on again ſeeing Miſs Richardſon, that before the departure of the ſtrangers, that

young

young Lady entreated permiſſion of her father to ſuffer her to detain Betſey with her ſome ſhort time; a requeſt that all parties readily conſented to.

Mary had now a new ſource of employment. Betſey, though a lively pleaſant child, was groſsly ignorant; and the whole of the morning ſucceeding her arrival Miſs Richardſon was employed in teaching her the alphabet, and to ſay her prayers—of the latter of which ſhe had ſome difficulty to make her comprehend the utility, as ſhe had never even heard the name from the wretches whom ſhe had unfortunately been thrown among.

After dinner Mr. Richardſon delighted his children by propoſing a viſit to Mrs. Sidney; and the coach being ordered,

dered, accompanied by little Betſey they took the road to Hornſey-wood.

" My dear Sir," ſaid Mary, " I know " you will excuſe a queſtion I wiſhed to " aſk you the other day, when we were " converſing of the wiſdom of King " Alfred; but that I was unwilling to " break upon the diſcourſe. You ſaid " he meaſured his time by the burning " of tapers; pray how long have clocks " been uſed?"

" My dear girl, your queſtions de- " light me, as they prove our converſa- " tions make the impreſſion upon your " memory I could wiſh. Clocks with " pendulums were not invented till " about the year 1662, when a Dutch- " man named Fromantil made the firſt. " Improving upon this eſſay, one Bar-

" low

" low in the year 1676 made repeating
" clocks and watches. But the honour
" of the firſt invention of this great art
" belongs to a man named Peter Helé
" of Nuremberg, who in the year 1490
" made watches, but which were then
" merely uſed for aſtronomical obſer-
" vations, and firſt brought into England
" from Germany in 1597. And now,
" Mary, that I have ſatisfied your cu-
" rioſity reſpecting clocks and watches,
" cannot you oblige us with ſome little
" hiſtorical anecdote that may amuſe us
" by the way? In our laſt ride you
" gave me ſo much ſatisfaction, that I
" am anxious to enjoy the ſame again."

" My dear father, if I ſhould grow
" proud you muſt not be very angry
" with me; your praiſes may well make
" me ſo."

" As

"As ſoon as I find they have that "tendency I ſhall be very careful how "I beſtow them," anſwered Mr. Richardſon. "The partiality of a parent "multiplies the perfections of his children. But they muſt poſſeſs very "weak minds indeed, who value themſelves on acquirements which the moſt "ignorant of mankind would perhaps "have equally obtained, had they poſſeſſed the ſame advantages of inſtruction."

"Mary, my dear Sir," ſaid Charles, "may be proud of meriting your praiſe, "without being improperly elated with "her own improvement."

"Undoubtedly; nor ſhall I ever be "backward in beſtowing it when really "due, and where it acts as I could "wiſh, which is as an incentive for you

"to

" to purſue ſtudies of which both Mary
" and yourſelf are entirely capable.
" But to be vain of our education and
" acquirements, is yet more unpar-
" donable than being vain of our per-
" ſons, as the firſt is merely a fabric
" raiſed by man, the latter the gift of
" God. The vanity attached to the
" graces of perſon only inſpires pity
" from every thinking mind: but the
" oſtentation of knowledge not only
" makes us contemptible and ridiculous
" to every perſon of underſtanding, but
" alſo to the ignorant; for few men are
" ſuch groſs fools, but that they can diſ-
" cover defects of that nature, and laugh
" at them. As a cryſtal placed before
" a good picture adds to the effect of
" the colours and painting, ſo doth

" modeſty

" modeſty dignify knowledge, which
" never ſhews to greater advantage than
" when contemplated through the pure
" cryſtal of modeſt diffidence. — By
" this I would not have you ſuppoſe
" that I mean to recommend a falſe ti-
" midity that diſguiſes all talents: that
" extreme is equally as diſguſting as
" pedantry; for there is little difference,
" in the eye of the world in general,
" whether a man be really a fool, or
" only look like one. What I would
" recommend is, that you ſhould re-
" gard what you acquire by education,
" as a fund of wealth, not to be laviſhed
" upon every occaſion, nor yet, when
" called forth, niggardly withheld; in
" our hours of retirement to ſerve as a
" ſource of pleaſure and comfort to our-
" ſelves,

" ſelves, and, in our commerce with the
" world, to be uſed in ſuch a manner as
" to make us reſpected by the good,
" and, if poſſible, not envied by the
" wicked."

" My dear father," ſaid Charles,
" your admonition will not, I hope, be
" loſt upon us."

" I will not doubt your obſervance.
" —But, Mary, my love, we wait your
" ſtory. By this time I hope you have
" recollected one."

" I am ready, Sir," replied Mary, and immediately related the following anecdote:

" Margaret of Anjou, Queen of
" Henry the Sixth, flying with her ſon
" Prince Edward after the battle of
" Hexham, concealed herſelf in a foreſt,

" where

" where ſhe was beſet during the dark-
" neſs of the night by robbers, who,
" either ignorant or regardleſs of her
" rank, deſpoiled her of her rings and
" jewels, and treated her with the great-
" eſt indignity. The diviſion of this
" rich booty cauſed a quarrel among
" the thieves; and while their attention
" was engaged, ſhe took the opportu-
" nity of making her eſcape with her
" child into the thickeſt part of the
" foreſt, where ſhe wandered for ſome
" time, ſpent with hunger and fatigue
" and ſunk with terror and affliction.
" While in this wretched ſtate, ſhe ſaw
" a robber approach with a drawn ſword;
" and finding that ſhe had no means of
" eſcape, ſhe ſuddenly embraced the re-
" ſolution of truſting entirely for pro-

" tection

" tection to his loyalty and generoſity.
" With the dignity and boldneſs natu-
" ral to her ſhe advanced towards him,
" and, preſenting the young Prince, ſaid,
" *My friend, I commit to your care the*
" *ſafety of your King's ſon.* The man,
" whoſe humanity and generous ſpirit
" had been obſcured, not entirely ſtifled,
" by his vicious courſe of life, was
" ſtruck with the ſingularity of this
" event, and, charmed with the confi-
" dence repoſed in him, vowed to de-
" vote himſelf entirely to the ſervice of
" the Princeſs. By his means ſhe re-
" mained ſome time concealed in the
" foreſt, and was at length conducted
" to the ſea-coaſt, from whence ſhe
" made her eſcape into Flanders."

This little tract of hiſtory laſted till they

they reached Mrs. Sidney's humble dwelling; where, to their great surprise, they found tea was prepared, and the good old Lady waiting their arrival.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

A Viſit to Mrs. Sidney—An Arrangement reſpecting little Betſey.

AS both Charles and Mary were tolerably quick-ſighted, they had no doubt but that their father, with his uſual benevolence, had, in the interval of their abſence, by ſome means contrived to aſſiſt Mrs. Sidney. The tea they obſerved was not procured from the inn, and ſome expreſſions of gratitude that were not to be reſtrained, but which evidently diſtreſſed Mr. Richardſon, confirmed them in their opinion.

To

To confeſs the truth, that Gentleman had the day before, alone and on foot, called on the old Lady and offered her every aſſiſtance in his power, with ſo much true delicacy and kindneſs, that, though ſhe would have declined his generoſity, ſhe could not help exclaiming in the warmth of her gratitude: "Oh my God! doſt "thou inſpire ſtrangers with that hu-"manity and attention for me, which "my own child never felt?"

"My dear Madam," ſaid Mr. Richardſon, "do not decline an offer, "which will oblige me to break off your "acquaintance; for, however vexatious "that may be to me, it muſt be ſo, as "I cannot bring my children to increaſe "your difficulties, unleſs I am allowed "to make ſome little compenſation for "the trouble. I ſhould be happy if

"they

"they would not fatigue you, to leave "them with you ſometimes for whole "days together: your converſation "would at once delight and improve "them."

Though Mrs. Sidney would willingly have declined pecuniary aſſiſtance on her own account, yet the conſideration of enjoying the company of young people who appeared much attached to her, did not fail of its weight, and at length with ſome reluctance ſhe accepted a note of twenty pounds from Mr. Richardſon.

His point accompliſhed, he took his leave, promiſing to bring his children to drink tea with her the enſuing evening.

On his entrance with the young folks he ſaid, preſenting little Betſey to her,

"Permit me, Madam, to introduce an-
"other intruder. Mary informs me ſhe
"related to you the manner of our
"meeting, but we have not been able
"to obtain the intelligence we wiſh re-
"ſpecting her parents."

Mrs. Sidney was intereſted by the perſon and lively diſpoſition of Betſey, and yet more ſo by her misfortunes; ſo that tea was hardly over before the conciliatory manner of the old Lady had made them perfectly acquainted.

Mary informed her, that the whole morning had been devoted to Betſey's inſtruction; and her pupil, to ſhew her learning, readily repeated what ſhe remembered.

"Upon my word," ſaid Mrs. Sidney, "I ſcarcely know which to commend
"moſt, the teacher, or the ſcholar;
"both

"both appear to have done their duty:
"yet, as old women will be trouble-
"ſome, if I may hazard one opinion,
"will not the inſtruction of little Betſey,
"for the preſent, intrude too much on
"Miſs Richardſon's own ſtudies? Here-
"after, when Betſey can read, teaching
"her may become an amuſement, ſhould
"that taſk ſtill remain with her kind
"benefactors."

"Your obſervation is juſt, Madam,"
ſaid Mr. Richardſon. "If in the courſe
"of a week we gain no information re-
"ſpecting our little charge, ſhe ſhall
"be ſent to ſchool until ſhe can read;
"after which, Mary, if ſhe pleaſes, may
"ſuperintend her education, and by ſo
"doing improve herſelf."

"I cannot complain of any heavy
"hours," anſwered Mrs. Sidney, "yet

"there are times when I ſhould be "pleaſed with a little companion. "Teaching this child would amuſe me; "and as ſhe has not been accuſtomed "to luxuries, ſhe would not experience "any inconvenience from my manner "of living."

Greatly to the ſurpriſe of both Charles and Mary, Mr. Richardſon made but few objections to this arrangement, though in general he was very cautious of giving trouble. The real motive was, that, by placing Betſey with Mrs. Sidney, he not only conſidered that the evil habits ſhe had contracted would be rooted out, but that it would alſo furniſh himſelf with a plea to aſſiſt the good old Lady, whoſe piety and misfortunes highly intereſted him.

The principals agreed, Betſey appeared

peared perfectly willing to remain with Mrs. Sidney; for, exerciſed in the ſchool of humility and misfortune, to her it was ſo great a luxury to be warmly clothed and fed, and ſheltered from the weather, that a choice independent on the will of her benefactor never croſſed her imagination. When the hour of departure for her young friends arrived, ſhe however gave a proof that her heart was ſuſceptible of gratitude; for, clinging round Mary's neck as ſhe kiſſed her, ſhe burſt into tears, ſaying, "Indeed, "Miſs, I will very ſoon learn to read, "that I may come to live with you "again."

Mrs. Sidney ſoothed her; and Mr. Richardſon promiſing that his children ſhould ſee her in the courſe of a few days, ſhe ſoon dried up her tears, and,

holding the good old Lady by the hand, ſtood at the cottage-door, and with tolerable compoſure ſaw her friends enter the carriage and drive away.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

A Diſappointment—The Wicked often betray themſelves—Ancient State of Canonbury-Houſe—Hackney Church dedicated to St. Auguſtine—Hackney Coaches firſt ſet up in that Village.

MR. RICHARDSON was ſo buſily employed during a whole week with his mercantile concerns, that he had no time to indulge his children in their uſual excurſions. At length a ſpare day intervening, to their great ſatisfaction he informed them it ſhould be deyoted to their

amuſement. "We will, if you approve," ſaid he, "trace as nearly as we can "where the ancient walls of the city "ſtood; and after dinner, as I know "that will be agreeable, we will pay a "viſit to Mrs. Sidney and her young "ward."

This arrangement was perfectly agreeable, and they were on the point of entering the carriage, when a man requeſted to deliver to Mr. Richardſon a letter of the utmoſt importance.

Mary felt a little ſentiment of impatience; but ſhe quickly baniſhed it, and, with her brother, followed Mr. Richardſon into the parlour; when having opened his letter, he found as follows:

SIR,

A diſcovery has been made this morning

ing which I hope may be advantageous to my little charge. Two of the Gipſies are ſecured, in whoſe poſſeſſion ſhe was when your goodneſs reſcued her. May I entreat your attendance as ſpeedily as buſineſs will permit, as your teſtimony will be neceſſary? My beſt wiſhes attend my good young friends, and believe me, Sir,

Your grateful humble ſervant,

ELLEN SIDNEY.

Mr. Richardſon immediately communicated the contents of this letter to his children, who, delighted to have their excurſion protracted by an event which promiſed to throw ſome light upon the birth and real parents of little Betſey, jumped into the carriage—both Mary and Charles repeating their father's com-

mand to the coachman, to uſe the utmoſt ſpeed in driving to Hornſey.

On reaching Mrs. Sidney's houſe they found the good Lady at home, with Betſey ſeated upon a ſtool cloſe at her knees; for ſhe had received ſo ſevere an alarm that morning, that ſhe was not willing to venture even half a yard from her protectreſs. Few words paſſed before Mrs. Sidney entered upon the buſineſs that had cauſed her to ſend for Mr. Richardſon; and which was as follows: The morning was fine; and when breakfaſt was over, Betſey, taking her ſtool, had ſeated herſelf at the door to learn her leſſon, on which ſhe was deeply intent. Mrs. Sidney ſtood near her; when two women paſſed, who had been unnoticed by the old Lady had not one of them made a momentary ſtop, and

with

with a dreadful oath exclaimed, "It was "little Deb." The name caught the child's attention; and fixing her eyes upon the women, ſhe uttered a fearful ſcream, and, claſping her arms around Mrs. Sidney, cried out, "Oh, ſhe will "kill me—ſhe will kill me indeed for "going away!"

"Thus perplexed," continued Mrs. Sidney, "I knew not what courſe I "ſhould have taken, had not two men "been at work in the field over againſt "us. I loſt no time, but called to them "to ſecure the women; which they "ſpeedily effected, and conveyed them "at my requeſt before a magiſtrate; "who only waits your arrival to pro-"ceed on their examination."

"My good Madam," anſwered Mr. Richardſon, "how fortunate was it that

"Betſey came hither! Your generous "propoſal will, I truſt, be the means of "leading us to her friends."

"I wiſh it may," anſwered Mrs. Sidney. "*God brought us acquainted for his "own wiſe purpoſes*, and all that is proper "for us to know he will no doubt lead "us to the truth of, at the time his "wiſdom judges beſt. If by any means "he ſhould make me a humble inſtru-"ment in the cauſe of innocence and "infancy againſt fraud and profligacy, "I ſhall have freſh occaſion to confeſs "his goodneſs, and to feel that at all "ages, and in every ſituation, we may "be ſerviceable to our fellow-crea-"tures."

During the above diſcourſe Betſey had placed herſelf between Charles and Mary, holding a hand of each, and addreſſing

dreſſing them alternately—" Pray hold
" me faſt!—don't let me be taken away—
" I don't like to be a gipſy girl any more.
" —Mamma Sidney won't let them take
" me, if ſhe can help it. But they will
" beat her down, for ſhe has white hair;
" and I have often ſeen them hit people
" with a great ſtick that had white hair."

Mrs Richardſon, who heard the latter part of this diſcourſe, ſhuddered at the recollection of the ſcenes that in all probability this poor infant had witneſſed, and queſtioned her reſpecting what ſhe alluded to: but ſhe was too young to give any diſtinct account, and all he could gather was, that the villainous wretches ſhe had been with, made a prey of helpleſs age and infancy, robbing them whenever they could find opportunity.

Betſey

Betſey, being encouraged by the preſence and ſoothings of her friends, in ſome meaſure recovered her ſpirits; when Miſs Richardſon, obſerving that ſhe called Mrs. Sidney Mamma, aſked her if ſhe had that Lady's permiſſion to do ſo.

"Yes, indeed I have," anſwered ſhe. "I told her I had no name but Betſey, "and that you had two names; ſo ſhe "ſaid my name ſhould be Sidney, and "ſhe would be my mamma till I found "a better. But I don't want a better, "Miſs, I love her dearly."

A meſſenger at that moment came from the Juſtice, to entreat they would all haſten to his houſe, as the examination was only delayed on their account. They immediately obeyed the ſummons,

Mr.

Mr. Richardſon's carriage conveying the whole party.

In ſpite of all that had been ſaid to encourage Betſey, ſhe no ſooner entered the apartment where the examination was to take place, and where the gipſy women were in ſafe cuſtody, than ſhe ſcreamed aloud, and was with the utmoſt difficulty ſufficiently pacified for them to obtain the information they wiſhed. On the Magiſtrate aſking her if ſhe knew the women, ſhe anſwered Yes; one was her mammy, and the other Nimble-fingered Dolly. This depoſition, though it made them ſmile, entirely removed all doubt; for the Juſtice had aſked the women's names on their being firſt brought before him, and the ſecond had replied that hers was Dorothy Nimble—thus ſoftening the appellation given

given her by her companions, in all probability, for her expertneſs in villainy.

The women, however, ſtrongly denied ever having ſeen the child before, and the examination ended by their being fully committed to priſon.

Mr. Richardſon and his children returned home with Mrs. Sidney, and ſhared with her a comfortable dinner procured from the inn; after which, willing to indulge the young people, he propoſed an airing, which was joyfully agreed to, provided the good old Lady would accompany them.

Mrs. Sidney's conſent being obtained, they entered the carriage, and proceeded on the north-eaſt of Iſlington; when an ancient wall attracting Charles's attention,

attention, he aſked his father, if it had belonged to any particular building.

" It is," anſwered Mr. Richardſon, " ſome of the remains of an old wall " belonging to Canonbury-houſe, which " is ſuppoſed to have been the manſion " appertaining to the Prior of the " Canons of St. Bartholomew in Weſt " Smithfield, and thence to have re- " ceived its name of Canonbury. The " ancient part of Canonbury-houſe is " ſuppoſed to have been built in the " reign of Henry the Eighth, by Wil- " liam Bolton, Prior of this houſe; " as his device, a *bolt* and *tun*, ſtill " remains entire in ſeveral parts of " the garden wall. One large old houſe " is all that is now to be found of " this once extenſive building; the

"modern houſes you ſee being raiſed "upon its ruins."

Converſing on different ſubjects, they reached Hackney, the church of which village, Mr. Richardſon informed the young people, was a diſtinct rectory and vicarage dedicated to St. Auguſtine, as early as the year 1292, but is ſuppoſed to have received its preſent appellation of St. John from the Knights of St. John of Jeruſalem, who had a mill and other poſſeſſions in the vicinity. "Nor muſt I here forget to "inform you," ſaid he, "it was from "this village that paſſengers were firſt "accommodated with coaches at a ſmall "ſtated price; from whence aroſe the "name of *Hackney* coaches."

Mrs. Sidney appeared as much ſatisfied

fied with the excurſion as the young people; and having taken their ride, they returned home with the good old Lady, and from thence to Finſbury-Square.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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led with the excursion as the young people; and having taken their ride, they returned home with the good old lady, and from thence to Finsbury-Square.